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TRAVELS

TO

HYERES,

IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE,

PERFORMED

IN THE SPRING OF 1806.

BY

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AUTHOR OF TRAVELS IN SPAIN, A JOURNEY TO MONTPELLIER, &c. &c.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

IN the present work, which is a continuation of my former Journey to Montpellier, I have been equally strict and scrupulous in my enquiries and descriptions; and as I have to contend with a host of physicians, against a universally established prejudice, have been no less careful to strengthen every one of my assertions with incontrovertible proofs. Should the number of deluded patients who flock to these places for relief, be thereby diminished, I shall have attained one principal object in the communication of my sentiments, on an error to which I am well persuaded that numbers have fallen victims. At the same time I have not lost sight of those particularities which afford an interest to the descriptions of every traveller, and I flatter myself that no class of readers will lay this book down totally unsatisfied.

TRAVELS

TO

HYERES.

LETTER I.

LYONS, *November* 8, 1803.

I Left Paris six days ago, impelled by an irresistible instinct towards the south of France. The former Catinat and Bourbonnais through which I passed, afforded but little worthy of observation. These countries were altogether poor and thinly inhabited. The first morning we stopped a moment at the wretched town of Essonne, in the afternoon at the pretty Fontainbleau, and in the evening at the gloomy Nemours. This is the substance of my first day's journey.

The next morning we went through a miserably barren country as far as Noyon, where every thing betrayed the utmost penury. We took our dinner here, and were entertaineded by the vivacious conversation of a travelling wine-merchant from St. Peré. He displayed all his samples of wines before us, and drew a parallel between them and the politics of the different courts, which was not altogether without justice.

"The policy of the French," said he, "may be compared to *champagne rosé*; that of the English seems to me like bad Port-wine*; I should designate the policy of Austria by Tokay; and that of Prussia by the genuine oil of Perdrix: but the policy of the Russian cabinet," cried he, lifting up his fore-fingers, "is compounded of all these wines."

In the evening we arrived at Cosnes, pleasantly situated in the neighbourhood of the Loire, which is the source of its opulence. The inn was good, the wine excellent, and the company truly agreeable. The conversation was enlivened by a succession of anecdotes, in which Buonaparte was always the subject. One of these, which refers to his stay in this place, must not be passed over unnoticed.

The First Consul taking up his night's lodging here, with a numerous retinue, on his return from Lyons, the landlady, as usual on such occasions, proportioning her demand to the grandeur of her guests, made a bill of fifty louis d'ors. The exorbitance of the sum occasioned so violent a contention between the marshal and the woman as to attract the notice of the Consul.—"Mais le Brun, qu'est ce que c'est donc?" when in-

* We confess, we see neither justice nor wit in this simile; but the author is a panegyrist of Buonaparte, as our readers will soon have an opportunity of observing. EDITOR.

formed of the subject. "Mais, madame, il faut corriger ce compte," he cried out to her from the carriage. "Pardonnez moi, citoyen premier consul, le ci-devant roi paya toujours autant," was the next and just reply of the ingenious and insinuating landlady. "Qu'on donne cent louis à madame," rejoined Buonaparte; and it must be confessed, that this little trait does no less credit to his duplicity than his ostentation.

On approaching the mountains we experienced a sensible change in the temperature. A thick chilling mist darkened the atmosphere, and the trees seemed to have been long stripped of their verdant cloathing. We dined at Nevers, which is famous for its hard-ware, and slept at Moulins, which has very good cutlery. At both places the inn was filled with female venders, many of whom were not without seductive charms.

Our fourth day's journey was extremely unpleasant. Raw weather, bad roads, a miserable country, wretched places, and every trace of extreme nakedness, poverty, and bigotry. This scene was agreeably contrasted with the opulence and industry of Rouane, where we arrived in the evening. This considerable town is situated on the Loire, and is the mart for all the merchandise passing between Lyons and Nantes.

The whole appearance of the inn declared its intercoure with two considerable cities. The miserable kitchen furniture was exchanged for an abundance of porcelain and fayance; the curtains of coarse baize for those of cotton; and the woollen blankets for a light coverlet of silk. The pretty corsets and handsome chignons of the girls bespoke the finery of the town.

The next morning brought us to the picturesque mountains of Forez and Beaujolais; where the pure balsamic air, the grand masses of porphyry, the little cascades, and the fresh vegetation of woods, called to mind the scenery of the Alps. On the summit of the mountain stood the inn à la Fontaine, enlivened by the brilliancy of a warm southern sun. We breakfasted in the open air, and dwelt with delight on the enchanting view of the Saone vale.

With cautious steps we now proceeded down the steep and dangerous declivity, and arrived safely in half an hour at Tarare. The difference in the vegetation here is truly striking. The trees still retained the beautiful foliage of the autumn, and the meadows were still bedecked with a fresh and luxuriant verdure. Tarare itself, with its balconies and flat roofs, its paper windows and linen doors, already announced our entrance into the south of France.

The road from here to Lyons was uninterruptedly beautiful, particularly by Arbresle, where it is surrounded by charming acclivities. Beyond Echelles, Mount Pila, and a part of the Savoy Alps, clearly opened to our view; and farther on we

could command a prospect of the whole plain of Lyons, with its two grand rivers and its chain of fruitful hills. At seven in the evening we reached the second capital of France, enveloped in mist and smoke.

LETTER II.

LYONS, *November* 1803.

THIS town deserves particular notice from its remarkable situation, being separated by a stream formed from the confluence of the two rivers the Rhone and Saone; and extending itself along each of the opposite banks; on one side skirting a hill, and on the other sinking into a valley. The division called la ville de Rhone is distinguished by many fine aud modern edifices; but the superb façade belonging to the Bellevue, demolished in 1793, is not yet rebuilt. The other part, called la ville de Saone, is old and irregular. The population of Lyons is estimated at about 89,000 souls.

Its northern latitude is 46°, and the climate by no means pleasant or mild, which is attributable to the vicinity of the town with the Alps. The winters are rather severe, and the cold sometimes rises to 14 and even to 18 deg. Ream. and the frost frequently continues till April. The summers are insupportably sultry, the heat sometimes rising to 31°. The autumn alone is temperate; but the chilling fogs commence with November.

The west and north-west, are the most prevalent winds, and are usually attended with heavy rains, which fall from 35 to 37 cubit inches annually. These are succeeded by the south wind, blowing a hurricane through the valley of the Rhone. The mild and salubrious breezes of the east wind are very rarely felt. If in addition to this we take the other local disadvantages of Lyons; its foul exhalations from the morasses; the smoke of its numerous manufactories and frequent fogs, into the computation, it must be readily granted, that Lyons is a very improper residence for an invalid.

In other respects it certainly has some advanges. Every thing tends to keep down the price of provisions. The soil is fertile; the conveyance easy, and the mercantile position of the town highly advantageous. To travellers I should recommend the "Place Bellacour," where both beds and apartments are remarkably clean; and the "Hotel au Parc," containing *some* bed-rooms with stoves. It may not be amiss here to observe, that in all the inns in Lyons an agreement must be made with one person for lodging, and one for board; but those who intend to

remain any time would do well to board in a private house, for which he must pay from two to six and twenty livres per month; or to take a furnished apartment (on the quay if he can) for which he will pay from twenty to four and twenty livres per month, and board where he pleases. At the Hotel au Parc dinner may be had for a Caroline and a half per month.

The water of the Rhone is preferable to all other. The best wines come from Champagne, Julienas, Blacey, Millery, Sainte-foy, Saint-Colombe, and may be had at reasonable prices; but the more choice wines of every sort are sold by Chapelot and Bourdin. Mineral and other waters are sold by Mess. Paul and comp. and P. J. Antoine, apothecaries. Vegetables and fruit, butter and cheese, from Mont d'Or, of an excellent quality, are sold very cheap.

The promenades are, the groves of la place Bellacour; the quay of the Rhone, (with a fine view); the grove Perrache, between the Saone and the Rhone; and the level of the hill Fourcieres, which commands a view of the town, the vale and grand chain of mountains extending to Montblanc; but the romantic scenery of the castle Pierre has not existed since the year 1793.

The island Barbe, to the north of the town, diversified by rocks and clusters of trees, deserves the attention of the traveller. Beyond that the little village of St. Bambert, embosomed in vineyards and chesnut plantations; and lastly, the Alpine mountain, "Mont Cindre," which affords the most enchanting prospect.

The right bank of the Rhone, to the south of the town, affords an infinite variety of promenades, which may be extended over the hills, and among the most luxurious vegetation, as far as St. Foy, &c.

These promenades will prove peculiarly interesting to naturalists of every description, from the curious plants, insects, &c. which are here found in such infinite variety.

The lovers of reading may indulge their various tastes at the public library, (or ci-devant grand college) containing 90,000 volumes, which is open every day from ten to one; besides which, Buysset, in the rue Clermont, supplies an extensive society with journals and papers; and le Clerc, in the place des Terreaux, has a considerable circulating library.

The social amusements of Lyons are not inferior to those in any place of equal magnitude. It has two theatres, which form an agreeable diversity with its concerts and assemblies. The merchants have also a distinct club and reading society, which is composed of agreeable and obliging individuals. In fact, the Lionese partake much more of the Swiss and German, than the

French character, owing, without doubt, to the very close intercourse subsisting between these several counties. Whether they do not betray a slight tincture of meanness? but let us not forget that this is inseparable from their avocation.

LETTER III.

SITUATION OF THE MANUFACTORIES OF LYONS.—COMMUNICATIONS BY LAND AND WATER.—PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—EDUCATION.—LITERARY SOCIETY.—INSTITUTIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DISTRESSED.—THEIR CALCULATION.—PUBLIC PAPERS.—DETAILS.

LYONS, *November* 1803.

LYONS is properly a manufacturing town; and it was with a lively interest I made myself acquainted with the various branches which occupied the industrious class of its inhabitants. To this end I visited first the silk manufactories, and their several inferior departments for velvet, gauze, lace, &c. and also the manufactories of gold-wire, embroidery, &c. but every where they complained of the want of demand; this may be partly owing to the revolution, but much more to the change in the taste of the Parisians. Were there but a splendid consular court, all these manufactories would again suddenly flourish.

The hat-manufactories, however, would not be so easily revived; the former great exportations being diminished by the dearness of rabbit-skins, and a number of mercantile prohibitions. With the tanning it is still worse, since this branch has taken a quite different direction. The cotton spinning and manufactories for hangings and India products, appear, on the contrary, in a more lively state. The book trade wants new resources in Italy; the iron trade maintains its former importance*. Lyons may, besides this, be regarded as the only mart for the products of the manufactories from all the departments. The mercantile position of this town is particularly advantageous. Situated in the centre of all the roads leading to Switzerland, Spain, Italy, and Germany; between two rivers, which flow through a great part of the country, and not more than ten leagues from the Loire, it offers to commerce the greatest and most numerous advantages.

The confirmation of this will be found by only glancing at the

* The iron is easily sent, by means of the Soane, from the departments of Jura, Doubs, Cote d'Or, and Deux Marnes, and then farther exported up the Rhone to the whole south of France.

port regulations. Besides the usual principal couriers and diligences which set off from Paris, there are mails and particular diligences which go every other day to all the important extremities of France. There are even some by whom persons may go in a direct line to Leghorn.

Besides these, are a number of messengers, as well as stage-coaches, boats, and other conveyances, in continual motion to and from the neighbouring departments and principal places; they may be had at all times, and at all prices. Barges, with provisions for the market, go three times a week to Chalons and Avignon; and boats daily repair to Grigny, Givors, and Vienne. The manufacturers avail themselves of all these conveyances for the transportation of their goods, which renders this carrying branch very considerable.

Lyons is also distinguished by many public institutions, to which I wish to direct your attention, and therefore commence with the lyceum, and the collections, library, cabinet of natural curiosities, botanic garden, &c. which are united with it. To these may be added a number of public and private schools, including the academy of Monsieur Maintigneux, at St. Just sur Lyon, all of which deserve an honourable mention.

I also observed the "Ecole d'économie rurale vétérinaire," for agriculture and farriery, instituted by the famous Bourgelat, and at present occupying the convent formerly known by the title of "Maison des deux amans," situated at the north-west end of the town, on the outer side the Saon.

This institution has been able to maintain its former celebrity, and is numerously attended both by natives and foreigners.

Among the proper literary societies I must first mention the "Athenée," or, as it will next be called, "Academie de Lyons," which reckons among its members a number of considerable names. For example Buonaparte, Fleurieu, Lacepede, Jussieu, Correa de la Serra, Lalande, Gruner; (at Jena) Von Zach, and many others, stand among its honorary members. A se-second literary society is the "Société libre d'Agriculture, Histoire Naturelle et Arts Utiles;" and lastly, the "Société de Medecine," from which of late great hopes have been entertained.

For the relief of the suffering poor is found in Lyons the "Hospice des Malades," into which natives and strangers are received without distinction, and with which is united an institution for pregnant women, and another for lunatics; but they all stand in need of much improvement. Here is also a "Hospice des Vieillards et Orphelins," for the reception of the aged who are above seventy; for orphans, or destitute children, until the age of sixteen; and for pregnant girls who have been se-

duced. The funds of both these hospitals are said to be very considerable; but the internal regulations are, upon the whole, not to be recommended. With the "Hospice des Malades" is united the school for medicine and surgery, which appears to be particularly devoted to the formation of surgeons for the army.

A third hospital is known by the name of "Depôt de Mendicité;" here beggars, lunatic, and other persons are admitted and supplied with either labour or medicine, as their infirmities require. This hospital is not well spoken of: it is supported by the public. The "Bureau de Bienfaisance" appears, however, much better regulated by the prefect. Its income is derived from balls, concerts, theatres, &c. and it supplies above eight thousand poor with wood, bread, meat, &c. This institution must not be confounded with the "Institution de Bienfaisance," this being a private undertaking by two physicians; their names are Dalivet and Clerc; and they are always gratis at the service of the poor, the pregnant, or the sick.

The "Establissement de Bienfaisance" is another private institution, which owes its origin to the agricultural society: here the poor in general, and Lyonese returning to their country, may receive assistance: the Rumford soup is also served here. Besides these are some "Maisons de la Charite," in which the sick of the four quarters are attended by the sieurs de la misèrecorde. With one of these a school is united, where female children are taught reading, writing, drawing, needle-work, knitting, &c free of expence.

Finally, I must mention a "Bureau de Vaccine," undertaken by Doctors Briou and Bellay; to whom mankind are indebted for the introduction of this valuable discovery; and Doctor Blanc's laudable private institution for lunatics. (Aux cidevant Recollets montée de Fourviéres).

With respect to the public convenience or security, my attention has been directed to the "Bureau d'avis et d'Adresse;" two "Bureaux d'Assurance contre les Incendies;" several "Bureaux generaux d'Agence;" "Bureaux des Nourrices;" and one "Petite Poste."

The public papers are "Affiches, Annonces, et Avis divers de Lyons," quarto, published by the Bureau d'Avis et d'Addresse—Nouvelles de Paris et de Lyons, octavo; a sort of country paper half filled with advertisements—Journal de Lyons, octavo; a very poor provincial paper—Almanack de Lyons, octavo; an annual paper—An Address Calendar, perhaps the best in France, and with which I think it time to conclude a letter on

a place where I have not been more than eight days; to-morrow I shall rise with the first dawn of day, and set out direct for Marseilles.

LETTER IV.

DEPARTURE FROM LYONS.—MORNING.—VALE OF ST. SIMPHORIEN.—MILDER TEMPERAMENT AND FINER VEGETATION.—VIENNE.—COTE ROTIE.———ST. VALIER.—APPROACH TO THE PROVINCE.—HERMITAGE.—ISERE.—VALENCE.— MONTELIMAR.—THE ORIGINAL.—SOUTHERN AIR AND VEGETATION ARRIVAL OFF AVIGNON.

AVIGNON, *November* 1803.

ON one of the finest evenings in autumn, I arrived here, and found nothing but joy and festivity. The weather is as mild and charming as with us at the end of August; the gnats are sporting in large companies round the candle; and as supper will not be ready for an hour, I shall pass that time in finishing my letter.

For the first league after we left Lyons every thing wore the vestiges of winter: the trees were covered with a light snow, ponds with a pellicle of ice, and a thick fog waved over the dreary plain. But scarcely had we descended the elevations of St. Simphorien than we experienced a milder temperature. The fog was dissipated, the sun broke forth from the clouds and discovered to us a landscape embellished with the bright glow of autumn. The trees yet retained their apparel; the meadows were still adorned with the freshest green; a pure balsamic breeze mingled with the melody of innumerable birds, announced our approach to a southern region. Thus encompassed with fertility we reached the little southern town of Vienne: on one side of us flowed the Rhone, and on the other stood high mountains. The house at which we alighted was but a poor one; the prospect of the terrace, however, unexpectedly fine. A rich and picturesque view, variegated with hill and dale, adorned the opposite shore; the place is called Cote Rotie, where a full southern sun matures the choicest wines; among which the white condrieux, and the red ampuis, are the most esteemed, and constitute the chief support of Vienne. As the antiquities of this place have been so frequently described I pass them over; observing only, that the beautiful obelisk serves for the pillar of the department, and is still decorated on the top with a cap of liberty. Although the country round Vienne is so fine, and the suburbs so pleasant, yet the town

itself may be reckoned among the ugliest in all France. We proceeded through charming quays by the Rhone, and along superb mountains until the evening, and arrived in good time at St. Vallier. The accent was already somewhat provincial, and the wine brought in provincial jugs. The food we found for the first time dressed in oil, and the beds elevated several feet above the floor. The French costume appeared to combat the provincial; and the lovely daughter of the hostess was full of rustic animation. We were served with hermitage at three livres a bottle, which was by no means of a bad quality. We left this flourishing town the next day at noon. The hill where this fine beverage is made lies at the back of Tuin. The surface consists of excavated granite, upon which the sun lies nearly the whole day. Besides this, each vine being placed in an excavation, where the sun's rays are concentrated, it naturally produces a very highly spirited wine. The name is derived from a little chapel which stands on the point of its acclivity.

A league beyond here we were badly ferried over the Iser. We found both banks of the river covered with high beds of gravel, which are brought and left there by the strong streams coming from the mountains when they produce floods. From here to Valence the country was uncommonly bare, until we nearly approached the town, when it became suddenly again very pleasant. The vegetation was as verdant as it usually is in the sourthern parts of Germany about the beginning of October. To future travellers I should wish to recommend the "Hotel d'Angleterre," in the suburbs.

Having in the afternoon passed a fine bridge over the Drone, we continued our way through a romantic country, and reached Montelimar towards evening. Here I had an opportunity of seeing at the table of the landlord a perfect original, whom I shall describe to you a little more minutely. He was a well-conditioned elderly man; one of those short and stout persons so seldom found in France: he had a circular copper-coloured face; a pair of small blue eyes, quite round; a most hidiously long and large nose; and lastly, a mouth full of large teeth, which opened nearly from one ear to the other. His dress consisted of an old-fashioned blue coat, with mother of pearl buttons; waistcoat and small clothes of red plush, and immensely large military boots. I have never yet seen so formidable an eater; with perfect convenience he swallowed not less than three pounds of meat and fish, and about double the quantity of bread and cheese. I imagine he must have drank proportionably of wine, as he was incessantly ordering his bottle to be replenished. I conjectured, from his whole appearance, that he

had been formerly a military surgeon; and found, upon enquiry, that I was not mistaken.

A league behind Montelimar we descended into a fine valley, and soon perceived a striking change in the temperature and vegetation, and were refreshed by a still purer, milder, and more salubrious air; while a number of southern plants, brushwood, pines, granate trees, and acacias, were, for the first time, visible in the fulness of their beauty.

But these charming scenes rapidly vanished, and gave place to desolate mountains and tracts of gravel, exposed to the full rays of the sun. Soon, however, were we greeted by the first olive tree, and the picturesque ruins of Montdragon; and having passed through Orange, which, like a friendly island in the ocean, blooms and vegetates in the midst of this stony wilderness We finally entered Avignon, which extends itself, in the midst of a well-cultivated landscape, along the banks of the Rhone.

LETTER V.

AVIGNON ROBBERS.—ANECDOTES AND PARTICULARS.—THE MOSCOVITE.—THE LADY.—THE GASCON.—THE SWEDE.—THE ITALIAN.—LIST OF PASSENGERS.—THE AUTHOR'S HAPPIMESS.—THE DURANCE.—ORGON.—ARRIVAL AT MARSEILLES.—FIRST IMPRESSION.—PARTICULARS.

MARSEILLES, *November* 1803.

I Have at last, my dear friend, reached my first winter station, and what is saying very much indeed, without being robbed. In Avignon every one was filled with apprehension and terror on account of some robbers who had lately made their appearance in its vicinity. They had already plundered the mail, but had for some days shewn no inclination to attack the diligence. It was even said that there had been papers posted up, demanding from each passenger a loan of two guineas, threatening death in case of a refusal. The conversation ran on this subject during the whole evening; and, among other subjects of a similar nature, the numerous robberies in 1799 and 1800, were introduced.

About this period the robbers became so daring that scarcely a week passed in which they did not make several attacks. In vain the diligences were attended by gensdarmes; in vain were several soldiers placed on the tops of the coaches; the banditti appeared in numbers, which always secured them the victory; nor, as it is said, was it in the power of the government to stop

their depredations without coming to a compromise with them, or employing large detachments of cavalry incessantly to patrole. At first they only took the public money, and gave not the least offence to the strangers, unless they opposed them, or were suspicious persons; they were, on the contrary, uncommonly polite, and apologized to the females for having given them the trouble of alighting.

When, however, the diligences carried no more public money, these robbers began to plunder the passengers not only of money, but of whatever valuables they might possess; after which they always returned to each person seven livres for the expences of the day, and carefully observed the rout each took. This was certainly a generosity and consideration worthy of notice.

From the number of anecdotes which this period afforded, I shall just relate you the following.

Once, having stopped the diligence in which were several gentlemen and one lady, they, as usual, robbed the gentlemen: when the turn came to the lady, "Comment, Messieurs," said she, with a confidential tone and an admirable presence of mind, "Des Français insulteroient-ils une femme?" "Surely not," was the answer;—"Nous ne voulons que vous embrasse."—They kept their word, and the lady was not robbed.

Another time, when the diligence was robbed, there happened to be a Swede in it, who said, with much sang froid, to the robbers, when they applied to him—"Je suis étranger, Messieurs! Je voyage sous la sauvegarde de la loyauté Française." They demanded his pass; and having found it accurate, said to him, with much easy politeness, "Montez, Monsieur! Vous ne payez rien."

On another occasion, a merchant from Toulouse was travelling in the diligence, who had four thousand livres of gold about him. When he was to have alighted, he held a small purse of counterfeit coin to the robbers, saying, "Had you but came a quarter of an hour sooner there were a thousand louis d'ors in it." The "bedi quarde d'uré," (petit quart d'heure) together with the cheat put on the robbers, made the whole company laugh, and the thieves retired satisfied. One more characteristic of the nation I must yet mention. An Italian had sewed his money under his arms; but had kept in his pocket a purse apparently full of louis d'ors: when the carriage was stopped, he gave his purse to the robbers, begging only to retain as much as would bear his expences to Nizza. "By all means," was the answer; "but you will have the goodness to take it in silver." By this method, the Italian obtained from the robbers twenty-

four crowns in silver, instead of a purse full of whist markers, at most not worth above ten or twelve livres.

Not less judicious were the conceptions of many other travellers on the some occasion. One, for example, dropped his money in the window frame; another hung it on a hook near the door; one hid his louis d'or in an apple, and another in a loaf; some bound them round the bodies of their dogs, and others concealed them in the heads of their canes.

The robbers and robberies occupied our attention until we had finally no more to say, and retired to rest. Each hastened to pack the principal part of his money in his trunk: thus prepared for the worst we recommenced our journey on the following morning, and passed the most dangerous places without hearing any thing of the robbers.

We soon reached the Durance, on whose banks we perceived thick layers of gravel; among which, upon examination, we discovered many variolites and fragments of granite, porphyry, sienna, &c. It is easily to be conceived that they are brought here from the Alps of Dauphine, and left by the violent floods of the Durance.

The following three leagues to Orgon bore all the marks of provincial sterility; for only in the vicinity of Orgar is the ground better cultivated. We soon, however, descended into the rich valley of Aix, which we left behind us, together with le Pin Albertras, &c. and proceeded to the last hill, from which we passed on in a direct line towards the coast. It is called the Vista, and commands at once a view of the fine gulph and luxurious vale of Marseilles.

Among innumerable country seats, and gardens full of the most vivid vegetation, we flew on to Marseilles. A peculiar mixture of European and Oriental forms, of southern and eastern fruits, of maritime and inland industry, announced to us, even at the very gates, our entrance into a great trading city. We turned to the left down a large street, and discovered, by the glimmer of the setting sun, the haven crowded with vessels. The swallows were fluttering in joyful circles; and every where resounded notes of music and cheerfulness. Every thing was animated and lively; every thing full of southern festivity and elegance.

LETTER VI.

MARSEILLES.—SITUATION AND SURVEY OF THE TOWN.—GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION.—OLD AND NEW TOWNS.—REGULAR DIVISION.—STREETS.—CLEANLINESS.—LIGHTING.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—PUBLIC PLACES.—ARCHITECTURE.—HAVEN.—OBSERVATIONS.—PROSPECT AND PLAN OE THE TOWN.

HAVING ascended an elevation for the purpose of viewing the town and surrounding scenery, I could easily see that Marseilles is situated in a vale surrounded with mountains, opening on the west side towards the sea, into which the southern mountains slope and form the beautiful gulph of Marseilles, whose back or northern part constitutes the roads. From this point of view it is perceivable that the town is built in the form of a horse-shoe, round which the haven extends; also that the northern side contains the most buildings, and is elevated above the rest. Its situation is 23° 1′ 45″ E. long. 43° 17′ 43″ N. lat. and its population, according to a French Court Calendar, amounts to 96,412 inhabitants. Upon descending into the town, it is found to be divided into two parts, the old town (ville vieille) and the new town (les quartiers neufs); the one extends itself in a sloping direction towards the haven, and the other south and east, towards the same point. The streets are less compressed. The former appears to be a perfect labyrinth; but the latter is distinguished for its regularity. Both, however, are well planned, and form three principal streets, out of which an innumerable number of small ones run towards the haven. The chief streets of the old town run from east to west, and are intersected by smaller ones, running from north to south; the chief streets of the new town run from north to south, and the intersected streets *vice versa*.

The streets of the old town are, for the greater part, narrow, steep, full of angles, badly paved, and filled with mean-looking houses. The streets of the new town are, on the contrary, perfectly straight, and adorned with handsome buildings and fine pavements; the former is chiefly occupied by the lower, and the latter by the higher classes. The old town is the most populous, but the new is preferred, being more quiet and clean. The so much execrated *passoires* are every where abolished, and public

" lieux d'aisance" introduced in these places. Only the principal streets are excellently lighted in the old town.

Here are but few public buildings which deserve mention: I shall therefore only just notice the Hotel de Ville, or the Consigne; the church of the ci-devant Precheurs; the new Fish-hall and the Theatre, they having all been circumstantially described by Fisch. Of the fine abbey of St. Victor, and the beautiful Gothic church known by the name of les Accoules, nothing now remains but the ruins. Both were demolished during the revolution.

There are many public places, but only three of much repute; the Place Castellane, St. Ferreol, and de la Comedie. Within the last four years the ramparts have been levelled and laid out in plantations, by which the former suburbs now form a part of the town. The manner of building the houses approaches to the oriental; the roofs being mostly flat, they are used for terraces. The houses are still more remarkable for their large square domes, through whose windows the *inner* part receives light, and for the perforated chimnies, which are so generally introduced on account of the frequent and violent mistral.

The haven is of a cubic form, measuring 450 toises by 130. It is capable of containing 900 ships; is sheltered from all winds, and inclosed with excellent quays. But from the great quantities of filth which flow into it from the various manufactories, it is much to be feared, that, notwithstanding the dragging machines, it will become unnavigable in many places. The entrance is guarded by two forts, that of St. Jean and that of St. Nicolas. Whether the newly projected haven at the back of the old one will succeed, appears, at present, very doubtful. Views of the tower and haven have been published by Barnet; and plans published in 1783 and 90, by Roullet and Guimet; besides which there are of the latter many anonymous. A new sketch is now preparing, and will probably, in six or seven weeks, be completed.

LETTER VII.

CLIMATE OF MARSEILLES.—REMARKS UPON THE WINTERS FROM 1796 TO 1803.—PREVALENT WINDS.—REMARKS UPON THE MISTRALS, AND THE MEDICAL QUALITIES OF THE CLIMATE.

MARSEILLES, *December* 1803.

WARMTH and aridity, united with a pure and salubrious air, constitute the chief qualities of the climate of this place. The thermometer stands in summer, almost invariably, between 21—25 deg. and is regularly accompanied by a refreshing gar-

bin or sea-wind, which blows from ten in the morning till six in the evening. In winter the cold usually rises only from 2-3, seldom from 5-6, and not once in a century to 8-9 deg. In the first case it continues only a few days, and in the last only a few hours; so that as a rule, a very pleasant temperature may be calculated at 6-12 deg. warmth.—The mean height of the barometer is 28 inches 1 line. Its greatest changes, during the whole year, are only 1 inch 3 lines.

The spring, with the exception of the equinoctial season and a few rainy days, is inexpressibly pleasant. The mild and lovely autumn extends far into November, and even sometimes into December. The three weeks subsequent to the winter solstice are rather cold and rainy; but at the end of January, the whole winter is properly ended. Nothing in the climate can be really called unpleasant, but the cold mistral or north-west wind. When at its greatest height, it lasts generally from three to six, nine, or fourteen days; but very rarely three weeks. This is only general. I shall subjoin some particulars drawn from the register of the learned Thulis, director of the public observatory*.

To commence then with 1796. In this year were reckoned 45 rainy days and 52 stormy ones;—11 foggy days, and 94 perfectly clear and serene;—perfectly gloomy, 44;—cloudy, 227;—three times FROST;—five times SNOW;—seven times thunder storms. The quantity of rain, 12 inches 8 lines 9.—The state of the barometer, 28 inches 6 lines 8; the lowest, 27 inches 3 lines 5.—The highest state of the thermometer, 23 deg. 3 above 0; the lowest, 5; the highest degree of humidity, 16° 0′.

The calculation in 1797 was as follows:—72 rainy, 43 stormy, 3 foggy, 59 perfectly serene, 22 quite gloomy, and 284 cloudy days. Frost four times; snow twice; hail twice; and thunder fourteen times. The quantity of rain was 25 inches 6 lines 9. The highest state of the barometer, 28 inches 7 lines 9; the lowest, 27 inches 5 lines 4. The highest state of the thermometer, 26 deg. 5 above 0; the lowest, 4 deg. below 0. The highest state of the higrometer, 59 deg. 9; the lowest, 13 deg. 0.

In the year 1798, 45 rainy days, 20 stormy, 15 foggy, 107 quite serene, 52 quite gloomy, 206 cloudy, 1 frosty, and 2 snowy, were computed; 2 thunder storms; hail twice. The quantity of fallen rain, 24 inches 4 lines 6. Highest state of the barometer, 28 inches 6 lines 9. Highest state of the thermometer, 23 deg. 4 above 0; lowest, 0 1. Highest aridity, 69 deg. 5; greatest humidity, 11 deg. 0.

In 1800, 59 rainy days; 29 stormy; 5 foggy; 78 perfectly fine; 28 perfectly gloomy; 205 cloudy; frosty 14; and snowy

* The degrees of the thermometer are by Reaumur. The height of the barometer above the sea is 23 toises 1 line 5.

1; once hail, and nine thunder storms. Fallen rain, 17 inches 1 line 7. Highest state of the barometer, 28 inches 6 lines 0; lowest, 27 inches 3 lines 3. Highest state of the thermometer, 27 deg. 2 above 0; lowest, 6 deg. 5 below 0. Highest state of the hygrometer, 69 deg. 5; lowest, 12 deg. 0.

In 1801, were computed 49 rainy days; 29 stormy; 10 foggy; 96 quite serene; 99 quite gloomy; 107 cloudy; 3 frosty; 5 snowy; 8 thunder storms; no hail. Fallen rain, 12 inches 5 lines 2. Highest state of the barometer, 28 inches 6 lines 3; lowest, 27 inches 3 lines 7. Highest state of the thermometer, 24 deg. 2 above 0; lowest, 1 deg. 3 below 9. Greatest aridity, 70 deg. 0; greatest humidity, 13 deg. 0.

In 1802, were computed 49 rainy days; 22 stormy; 1 foggy; 109 quite serene; 46 quite gloomy; 120 cloudy; 13 frosty; 3 snowy; no hail; 7 thunder storms. Fallen rain, 19 inches 11 lines 7. Highest state of barometer, 28 inches 11 lines 2; lowest, 27 inches 1 line 8. Highest state of the thermometer, 29 deg. 9 above nothing; lowest, 1 deg. 1 below 0. Highest state of hygrometer, 61 deg. 7; lowest, 8 deg. 0.

In 1803, 65 rainy days; 136 stormy; 0 foggy; 107 quite clear; 37 quite gloomy; 185 cloudy; 15 frosty; 3 snowy; no hail; 5 thunder storms. Fallen rain, 25 inches 0 lines 3. Highest state of barometer, 28 inches 5 lines 7; lowest 26 inches 11 lines 2. Highest state of thermometer, 29 deg. above 0; lowest, 4 deg. 6 below 0. Highest state of hygrometer, 69 deg. 7; lowest, 0 deg. 3.

From the commencement of November to the end of March the north-west wind, and the west-north-west, blow the most frequently. In April, these winds give place to the south-east and south-west; which are ruling winds from June to the end of October. The north-west, and the west-north-west, always bring fine clear weather; the south-south-east, and the west-south-west, bring in the winter months always rain. Among the warm winds the south-west, and amongst the cold ones, the north-west, are both equally unpleasant; the one producing an enervating warmth, and the other a cutting and penetrating cold. Saussure has ventured a presumption on the durability of the latter wind, which I cannot forbear communicating.

It is well known that the mistral, or north-west wind, is perceived in all the lower provinces, and in Lower Languedoc, with more or less force, all the seasons of the year, and with every variation of the atmosphere. This is explained by Saussure in the following very probable hypothesis*. He first directs the attention to the situation of the Gulph of Lyons, in a

* Voyages dans les Alpes. Tom III. edit. in 4to pag. 407. suiv.

large hollow, circumscribed by the Alps and the Pyrenees. Every wind between north and west rebounds from these mountains, and plunges into the gulph:—thus, when several winds (as is often the case) come in contact with each other, they necessarily produce the whirlwinds particularly appropriate to the mistral.

A second reason Saussure adduces from the general inclination of the coasts inclosing the gulph. They all diverge too much towards the sea, from which the cold winds pour with increased facility towards this lowest and warmest point, and cause a current which increases in power from the circumference, direction, and depth of the gulph. But enough on the origin of the mistral. I shall now proceed to the medical properties of the climate of Marseilles.

The climate of this place appears much conducive to health. Nothing is to be seen but tall fine athletic forms, and a continually increasing population. Notwithstanding the frequent excesses of the people, the middle age is reckoned at thirty, and persons frequently attain sixty or seventy. But whoever visits Marseilles for the restoration of his health, must not forget that the climate is alone beneficial for—Nervous diseases; and on account of its invariable sharpness, always—dangerous for Pectoral ones!

LETTER VIII.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY AT MARSEILLES.—BREAD.—WATER.—OIL.—MILK.—MEAT.—VEGETABLES.—FISH.—FRUIT.—WINE.—SWEETMEATS.—BEER.—SPIRITS.—LODGING.—FIRING.—DRESS.—PARTICULAR ESTIMATES AND REMARKS.—ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS.

MARSEILLES, *December* 1803.

IN the present letter I will impart to you some information on the domestic economy of this place; knowing, from experience, how pleasant it will be for the distant reader and future traveller. You must expect nothing cheap; those times have long passed. Marseilles is, on the contrary, a very expensive residence; but I will go into particulars, that you may see in what manner persons live here. The bread is as fine as can be produced by the rich meadows of Languedoc and the Levant, and the pound cost this winter three sous. The water is but tolerable; in some places bad, as it carries more or less clay with it. The best flowing springs are in the upper parts of the old town; and those in the haven drawn from them, are in the best repute. The best oil

costs thirty sous; the second sort twenty; and the common for burning, from twelve to fifteen.—Milk is scarce and dear for those who cannot use goat's milk.

The meat is very good; particularly the mutton and lamb; which is distinguished by a peculiar delicacy and tenderness. The pork too is much praised; the provincial hams and "saucissons" are extolled by every French epicure. A pound of beef costs, at present, ten sous, of mutton twelve, pork sixteen, lamb fourteen, and veal twenty-four.

The most esteemed fish is the chad, and a sort of perch; the best sort costs from twenty to four and twenty sous a pound; the common from ten to fifteen. Among the maritime fishes, the tunnies are much valued, particularly those from St. Tropez; where the preparation is best understood. The finest sort cost five livres a pound.

Vegetables are plentiful throughout the year; but proportionably expensive, from the great consumption and difficulty of conveyance. A small bundle of cauliflowers costs from twelve to fifteen sous; one head of celery, two; a handful of spinage, seven; the same of parsley, three sous, &c.

Fruits, both exotic and indigenous, are very abundant. Of the indigenous, I mention only the fig, almond, plum, and grape. Of the exotic, those coming from Italy and the Levant. A pound of the best Marseilles figs costs twelve sous; of the best unshelled almonds, ten; of French plums, twelve, and a pound of the choicest grapes, ten sous.

Oranges and pomegranates are imported from Spain; those from Hyeres and Nizza having a roughness in the flavour. From Italy they receive chesnuts, apples, raisins, &c. From the Levant, dates and pistachios. When sold at a moderate price, two pomegranates, or oranges, cost three or four sous; a pound of Genoese chesnuts from eight to ten sous; half a dozen Genoese apples from three to four; a chest of dates from twenty to thirty; a pound of pistachioes from thirty-five to forty sous, &c.

The common provincial wines are rather cheap: a bottle, two years old and very palatable, may be had for four or five sous. That of five years old, refined and improved*, costs from nine to twelve sous. Finer provincial wines, such as Cassis, Malgua, &c. are sold at from two to three livres. Other French wines, as Frontignac, Condrieux, Hermitage, Burgundy, &c. from two to six livres. Spanish wines, as Tinto, Xeres, Malaga, Alicanta, &c. Italian and Sicilian, as Syracusian; Grecian, as Cyprus; may also be had here pure and unadulterated, but not under the high price of from five to ten livres.

Among the liqueurs I mention only the huile de jasmin, as

* This is done in the wine countries by the addition of a superior sort of wine,

being certainly the best. Among the preserves, the oranges deserve the most attention. Mineral water they receive from Lyons. The beer is prepared well, and in large quantities, by German brewers.—A bottle of huile de jasmin costs three livres. The same of (artificial) Seltzer water, ten sous; a pot of preserved oranges, six livres; a bottle of beer, twelve sous, &c.

Lodgings, firing, and apparel, may, with certainty, be reckoned the most expensive articles in Marseilles. A moderate room costs 36 livres per month; a small floor from 6 to 700 yearly. A great-coat, of decent cloth, costs four louis d'ors; and of the finest, seven. A hundred weight of oak timber, three livres; the same of fir, thirty-five sous.—But it is now time to say a few words for the benefit of travellers or strangers.

Whoever intends to stay any time in Marseilles, and is not offended by the bustle of a hotel, I advise to board here at the Hotel de l'Ambassadeur, where the expence is from ten to twelve livres daily. Those who, on the contrary, prefer retirement, would do well to seek their assistance of their banker, who, with ease, can recommend them to board in a private family. Those who merely want a room, and board either from home, or provide for themselves, may find numerous accommodations for forty or forty-eight livres per month. For this purpose the Rue de Rome, and the green alleys de Meilhan, are the most desirable situations.

LETTER IX.

SOCIETY AT MARSEILLES.—THEATRE.—BALLS.—CONCERTS.—CLUBS.—CIRCULATING LIBRARIES AND MUSIC.—PROMENADES IN THE TOWN.—THE COURSE.—PARTICULARS OF THE FLOWER-MARKET.—THE QUAY ST. JEAN.—REPRESENTATION.—THE TOURETTE.—HISTORICAL REMARKS.—THE WHARF OF ST. NICOLAS.—PROMENADE AT THE BACK OF THE FORT.—ROAD TO THE FORT NOTRE DAME DE LA GARDE.—VIEW.—ALLEYS DE MEILHAN.

MARSEILLES, *January* 1804.

DO not be concerned, my dear friend, for fear you should want amusement; at Marseilles, believe me you will be well satisfied on this point. To commence then with the usual resourses: you will find two theatres, the "Grand Theatre" and the "Theatre de la Rue Thubareau." The former might vie with those of Paris; the latter is not much superior to a common one at the Boulevards.

The most celebrated pieces are got up at the Grand Theatre, and are represented alternately with operas and ballads. The performers are good; the singers not bad; the musicians skilful; the scenery fine; the costume (particularly the oriental) correct and splendid; and dancers approach near to those of Paris. It is open every evening, and a stranger would do well to go *aux secondes* for three liv.

The Theatre Thubareau has much variety, little intriguing pieces, farces, and the like, such as are usually seen on the Boulevards theatres. Players, singers, musicians, scenery, and decorations, are all pretty much upon a par. They perform here also every evening; but it is not advisable to go otherwise than *aux premieres* for two livres; for, whoever wishes to study low life and detail, I recommend, in particular, the broad comic farces giving in the provincial pathos.

Public balls, concerts, &c. particularly in winter, are given almost daily. To the disgrace of Marseilles, there are no less than six or eight public and licensed theatres. But I pass it over in silence, as I do the licentiousness of the place, which is already sufficiently known; and turn rather to the lively spirit of the inhabitants; the refined sociability of the higher classes; the hospitality of the German and Swiss houses, where every upright countryman finds the most cordial reception. Prudence teaches me to avoid particulars; but the individuals will ever live in my remembrance.

The "Union," and the "Club sans Pretension," both composed of merchants; the latter mostly of Germans, Swiss, &c. form two very agreeable circles. Reading, conversation, social games, and occasionally a festive entertainment, are the chief objects of the meeting. The Union contains a pretty mercantile library, and the best national newspapers. Both societies have a very pleasant place of assembly, which is well warmed and lighted. To be introduced into either company, nothing more is requisite than an address to one substantial house.

A reading-room for journals and newspapers, united with a small circulating library, may be met with at the honest and industrious Vigier's, directly opposite Evrard's Hotel. Another of the same kind is kept by Michael, Rue St. Ferreol. Several circulating libraries are to be found upon the Course, but they contain few good books. The booksellers Chardon, at the Canebiere; Chaix, on the quay; St. Jean, and the worthy Vigier, have the most novelties; the latter is to be recommended for the moderation of his prices. Large and valuable works may be had of Mossy.

As proper promenades are no where to be found, I can only speak of what resembles them the most. In the town there is,

first the Course, an avenue, 216 toises in length, bounded on either side by rows of houses; although it has been so much neglected during the revolution, it affords (from its populousness and the number of its shops) at all times a pleasant lounge. At its lower extremity, towards the Rue de Rome, is the flower-market, which must not pass unobserved. The women who attend it are distinguished from the rest of the lower class by a finer dialect, more gentle manners, and superior forms; they sit in two rows with their flowers set on large tables, which being rather cheap even in winter, almost every female appears on a Sunday with a natural bouquet. A large bunch of violets or narcissuses costs two or three sous; one of pinks four; of orange blossoms five or six.

In addition to the flowers growing in Marseilles, many are brought in small vessels from Toulon, Grape, Nizza, and San Remo; together with pinks for planting, rose-bushes, small lemon and orange trees, &c. from which a sort of botanical luxury is collected.

Other promenades are afforded by the quays, which, as was before remarked, enclose the haven like a horse-shoe, and which receive their names from the forts at the extremities: St. Jean on the right hand, and St. Nicolas on the left.

The former presents a scene of the most varied mercantile and maritime industry: while one side is crowded with cellars, booths, and shops one above another; the opposite side is thronged with large and small vessels. Here are rope-makers, and watch-makers, goldsmiths and map-sellers, perfumers and pedlars, fruit-women and fish-women, dealers in parrots and monkeys, hawkers of pictures, &c. &c. indiscriminately jumbled together into one chequered mass. Here the ships arrive from Genoa with apples and chesnuts; from Toulon, Mallorka, and Frejus with oranges and sardels; barks with flowers, onions, and flax; feluccas from Nizza, Leghorn, and Bastia; vessels laden with wood from Hyeres, and Porto Ferrajo; and, finally, the great trading vessels in West India produce to and from the Levant, &c. Not without some difficulty a passage is forced through these busy crowds to ascend the place St. Jean upon the Tourette, or old rampart, which is a large terrace extending along the gulph from St. Jean's to the old cathedral church. Were it but planted with trees, and less exposed to the full rage of the mistral, it might, from its pure air and enchanting prospects, become one of the pleasantest walks in Marseilles; at present it is little frequented.

The miserable fishing-huts which enclose one side, afford a historical curiosity worthy of remark. Their inhabitants are distinguished by their dress, language, and manners, from all the people of Marseilles and the other provinces, on which ac-

count they have been justly regarded as the descendants of the ancient Phenicians. It is highly probable that they were the first inhabitants of Marseilles; and that this spot was its original scite, but it is supposed that the hills extended much farther into the gulph and the old town, from its extremity down to the ocean.

Descending again from the Tourette, to pass by the Consigne across the haven, you land on the quay of St. Nicolas; which is not without its peculiarities. Although the number of shops and the variety of mercantile and maritime occupations is here much less than on the opposite quay, still the loss is replaced by the greater number of magazines, dock-yards, public-houses full of sailors, corn-ships, colliers, and many other northern scenes by no means uninteresting to the stranger. At the end of the fort of St. Nicolas lies, on the right hand and on the left, the path to the newly planned walk behind it, which being only a bare terrace, smoothed in the rock, deserves no particular attention for any thing but for the fine prospect which it commands. Towards the side, a steep open path leads up to the fort de Notre Dame de la Garde, whose height is computed at eighty-five toises: what from the terrace could be imperfectly seen, namely, the town, the haven, the double chain of mountains, the gulph, surrounding country, islands, and the elevated ocean, here breaks upon the sight like one grand amphitheatre, and may be clearly and distinctly seen. The fort itself is insignificant, not having a single cannon; but as it commands the whole town, every ship entering the gulph is announced there the town.

Les Allées de Meilhan afford the third promenade. This is, properly speaking, the only one where fresh air is united with something of rural tranquillity; on its left side lies the Course. The walks are broad, and the trees kept in good order; the houses have a neat appearance, and do not impede the free circulation of air. Thus much of the walks within Marseilles; we shall next speak of those without the town.

LETTER V.

COUNTRY OF MARSEILLES.—PARTICULAR WALKS.—LA MAGDELAINE.—CARTHUSIAN.—VRAUNE VALE.—BASTIDES, GENERAL AND PARTICULAR, VALUE AND USE.—EXCURSIONS.—MARSEILLES ROYRE, &c.

MARSEILLES, *January* 1804.

"WALKS without the town!" you exclaim with surprise; "why the whole country is said to be nothing but a labyrinth of garden walls." This assertion is much too positive. You will see

hat here and there a pleasant walk is to be found. Immediately at the close of the Allées de Meilhan lie the promenade de la Magdelaine, and the fine Carthusian, both encompassed with charming scenery. On one side, towards Aubagne, lies a little valley, watered by the Vraune, and enriched with fine meadows and trees of the freshest green. On the other side you have only to pass the first garden walls, and you are encompassed by flowery shrubs and fruitful vineyards. Still it must be allowed, that these walks are to be preferred in the winter; the great want of shade rendering them almost insupportable in the summer: neither can it be denied, that, for the most part, the country is either bare and waste, or covered with "Bastides."

A common bastide, and nine tenths are so, contains nothing more than a saloon, some small adjoining rooms, and two, yet smaller, on the upper story. A few vegetables, vines, olive, almond, and fig-trees, constitute the requisites for a garden. A varied vegetation, shade, cool springs, and the harmony of birds are dispensible. Bastides, such as are met with in the romantic scenery of Switzerland; bastides truly fitted for rural retirement, with comfortable convenient apartments, gardens filled with flowers, cooling springs, and trees affording shade, are, alas! rarely to be found in Marseilles. The finest, however, are to be seen, some aux Eygalades, others on the way to Toulon, lying along the coast, embosomed in ever-blooming freshness, and possessing every advantage which a southern climate can bestow.

A common one costs from 8 to 10,000 liv. a superior one from 12 to 15,000 liv. and one of the best from 24 to 30,000 liv.: the produce is trifling, and the expence frequently considerable; but as the possession of one forms an appendage of fashionable life, the value is subject to little variation. Many are used only a few days in the week, and others only a few weeks in the year. In this particular, even artisans ape their superiors, and at least hire lodgings at the house of a peasant: in such cases "ma bastide" sounds rather laughable.

Those who are disposed to take an excursion of a few leagues, will find themselves recompensed by numerous interesting objects: the Grotte de Roland, for example, situated at the side of the mountain, known by the name of Marseilles Boyré; the Chateau Borelli Gemenos, St. Pons, Bellombre, Albertras, Notre Dame des Anges, la St. Baume, &c. a discription of which has been given by Papon, although they are much changed during the last twenty years, and have suffered much from the revolution. The mountain, however, deserves particular notice, by reason of its height, which amounts to 217 toises, and its being used in war-time as a beacon; on which account a small guard-house is placed on the summit. In the day a flag, and at night, a

lantern serve as signals. A red flag, with a flaming light, hastily covered, denotes danger; a white flag and steady light, security. The mountain is discernible, from the eastern and western coasts, at the distance of three leagues. It is almost superfluous to add, that the naturalist will find ample scope for observation, and collect numerous shells, fine plants, beautiful dendrites, &c. &c.

LETTER XI.

INDUSTRY AND MERCHANDIZE OF MARSEILLES.—STATE OF MANUFACTURES IN 1788 AND 1803.—STATE OF TRADE IN 1788 AND 1803.—OBSERVATIONS.—EXPORTATIONS AND IMPORTATIONS.—PARTICULARS.—BILL TRADE.—THE CONSULATE.—COMMUNICATIONS.—QUARANTINE REGULATIONS OF MARSEILLES.

MARSEILLES, *January* 1804.

IN speaking of the labouring and mercantile resources of this place, nothing presents itself but melancholy contrasts. What trade! What manufactories prior to the revolution, and what a decrease! What ruin fifteen years subsequent! What Marseilles was, what it might be, if favoured by circumstances, I shall endeavour to shew, and I hope satisfactorily.

Manufactories.—In 1788 Marseilles contained the following manufactories:—soap-boilers, 41; hatters, 47; sugar-refiners, 12; potteries, 10; china manufactories, 5; cotton-printers, 17; silk stocking-weavers, 27; sail-cloth manufactories, 15; tapestry manufactories, 9; tanners, 26; Spanish-leather manufactories, 5; liqueur distilleries, 25; tobacco manufactories, 1; starch manufactories, 13; paper mills, 3; glass manufactories, 6; brandy distilleries, 4; wax-light manufactories, 7; tallow-chandlers, 9; vitriol manufactories, 2; coral manufactories, 1; brimstone manufactories, 5; Smyrna-cotton dyers, 4; woollen cap manufactories, 3; dyers, 5; glove manufactories, 3; thread, silk, and worsted manufactories, 4; gold and silver stuff manufactories, 2; Indian and cotton manufactories, 13.

In 1803 there existed in a state of employ, soap-boilers, 27; hatters, 30; sugar-refiners, 5; potteries, 6; cotton-printers, 5; silk stocking manufactories, 12; tapestry manufactories 5; tanners, 17; liqueur distilleries, 20; starch manufactories, 7; paper mill, 1; glass manufactories, 4; wax-light manufactories, 4; brandy distillers, 5; tallow-chandlers, 6; vitriol and brimstone manufactories, 4; Smyrna-cotton dyers, 7; woollen cap manufactories, 9; wine manufactories, 10; cotton manufactories, 8; tobacco manufactory, 1.

Upon comparing the two estimates you will perceive, that the manufactories for china, gloves, Spanish leather, thread, silk, and gold and silver stuffs, are entirely sunk; that the others have suffered more or less; and that only the manufactories for wine, dying Smyrna cotton, and making wollen caps, have increased: the two latter from the revolutionary fashion of wearing red caps; and the former, because the well managed provincial* wines are now much sent to the north, under the title of Vins de Bourdeaux.

Trade.—To compare each individual branch in the foremen-tioned years would be scarcely possible; we shall, therefore, only make a few remarks in the aggregate. The Levant trade, once so important, is now reduced to one-third of its former amount; that to the West Indies, is almost as good as lost; the Italian and Spanish, unimportant; and the Northern, scarcely worth mentioning. In 1788, five thousand ships entered the haven, and in 1803, fifteen hundred. The conclusion is easily drawn. The war, the revolution, and above all, the heavy taxation, have combined to cause it. A word from Buonaparte and Marseilles would again become the first trading town in France. What may be done here will be seen by the following:—Marseilles can export to the Levant, shawls, dying-wood, sugar, coffee, indigo, cochineal, spices, iron, tin, fruits, liqueurs, tartar, cinnabar, woollen and cotton caps, silks, gold and silver laces, gilt work, jewellery, hard-ware, grocery, stuffs, piasters, rix-dollars, and verdigrease.

From the Levant it can import wool, cotton, silk, gums, madder, gall-nuts, opium, camel's and goat's hair raw and spun, tallow, copper, scammony, coffee, soda, hides, frankincense, saffron, myrrh, rice, ammoniac, tamarinds, senna, natrum, skins, coarse cottons, wheat, barley, shell-fruits, ostrich feathers, and wax.

To the West Indies, &c. it can export oil, wine, soap, almonds, candles, brandy, hats, shoes, hair-powder, fruits, cheese, earthen-ware, bricks, hams, nails, hoops, millinery, silk, thread, and cotton stockings, parasols, and other small articles.

In return for which it imports colonial produce, as sugar, coffee, indigo, cocoa, cochineal, &c. nearly in as large quantities as Bourdeaux itself.

Its exports to Italy, Naples, and the Sicilies, are, sugar, coffee, treacle, shawls, stuffs, grocery, hats, and other articles of lux-

* In the provincial dialect called Chaix. The wines are here clarified and otherwise fitted for exportation. In most manufactories the Swedish and Rhine vats are fixed up.

ury; to Sardinia, colonial produce, stock-fish, wine, hides shawls, fishing-nets, and soap; to Genoa, coffee, sugar, cocoa, annatto, treacle, wines, liqueurs, hard-ware, and hides; to Tuscany, sugar, coffee, indigo, and all sorts of West India products; to Rome and Venice, sugar, coffee, stuffs, spices, and shawls.

It imports from Italy, Naples, and the Sicilies, oil, wheat, shell-fruits, silk, hemp, wool, liquorice-roots, manna, Spanish flies, schumac, tartar, almonds, brimstone, starch, figs, and raisins; from Sardinia, oil, wheat, chesnuts, pickled tunny-fish, lemons, oranges, and other fruits; from Genoa, coal, oil, quills, apples, chesnuts, and other fruits; from Tuscany, wheat and shell-fruits; from Rome and Venice, corn, rye, wool, hemp, and allum.

It exports to Spain, corn, rye, barley, maize, stock-fish, shawls, caps, stuffs, sugar and rice; in return for which it imports oil, indigo, soda, cochineal, saffron, esparto, pilchers, southern fruits, piasters, and wine.

To the North it exports the produce of the Levant, and articles of its own manufacturing; for which it receives northern produce; particularly flax, hemp, wheat, wood for ship-building, tar, tallow, iron, and sail-cloth; to Switzerland, wares from the Levant and West Indies; for which it imports but little, the same articles being sent to the neighbouring and inner provinces of France, and oil, grain, shell-fruits, &c. imported in return.

It is easy to conceive that so extensive a trade must give rise to vast bill transactions; numerous consulates and widely diffused connections must require very important regulations. To commence with bills.—Marseilles maintains a direct course with Amsterdam, London, Hamburgh, Vienna, Paris, Lyons, Toulouse, Bourdeaux, Montpellier, Madrid, Cadiz, Barcelona, Leghorn, Genoa, Constantinople, and Smyrna. It receives consuls from Spain, Genoa, Ragusa, Etruria, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Prussia, Holland, Austria, Swisserland, and the United States of North America. It has all sorts of communications by land and water; those relating to quarantine and the post are, indisputably, the best in all Europe, and consequently deserve a more minute description.

The post carrying letters to Paris, Grenoble, Chambery, Turin, Triest, Milan, Swisserland, Germany, Holland, England, and the northern kingdoms, goes every day. Couriers go every other day with letters to Nismes, Montpellier, Toulouse, Perpignan, Bourdeaux, Bayonne, Barcelona, and Madrid.

Expresses go every week with letters to every part of Italy; by which letters may be also conveyed to Sicily, Sardinia, and

Corsica; others go twice every month to the Levant and Archipelago.

Diligences arrive here every other day from the chief towns of the former provinces; from the other southern departments; and from Paris, every three days. Besides these, are messengers, stage-coaches, cabriolets, and bonts, in continual motion to and from the chief towns. Not less considerable is the number of lighters and stage-waggons, which convey goods to Nismes, Lyons, Grenoble, Strasburgh, Basle, Paris, and Besançon. With regard to the shipping system, you need only turn your attention to the number of coasters from Barcelona to Leghorn, and the packet-boats from Corsica.

I have yet to speak of the fourth important promoter of the commerce of Marseilles; but as this subject requires to be treated distinctly, I have ventured to give you my thoughts in the appendix, and hope they will merit yourapprobation.

LETTER XII.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF MARSEILLES.—LITERATURE.—THE LYCEUM, ITS BOTANICAL GARDEN AND LIBRARY.—INFERIOR SCHOOLS, &c.—OBSERVATORY.—THULIS—MEDICINAL SOCIETY.—ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.—LITERARY MEN AND ARTISTS.—STAMATY'S CORK PRODUCTIONS.

MARSEILLES, *Jan.* 1804.

TO speak of the public institutions of Marseilles with more precision, we shall divide them into literary and philanthropic; commencing with the particular institutions, societies, &c. of the former.

The lyceum may certainly claim the first rank; but the botanical garden belonging to it can only be interesting on account of the estimable Rudibert; and the library, only from the learned and meritorious Doctor Achard's being at this time occupied with its arrangement. It is with regret that I am obliged to add, that these institutions are not the most splendid in Marseilles, and that I cannot but be astonished at the sacrifices made to them by many eminent men.

You naturally expect no minute description of the inferior boarding-schools (among which are seven for females), nor of the private ones, where only writing, accounts, and the languages necessary for commerce, are taught. The navigation school is under the direction of the meritorious Dühamel; the observatory, rendered memorable to me by the politeness and

intelligence of Thulis, is deserving of the following particulars, for whose authenticity I make myself responsible.

The "Observatoire National de la Marine" was built during the years from 1699 to 1702, and repaired and improved in the years 1794—1795. It was in the hands of the Jesuits until 1764, when it fell to the care of the Reverend Silvabelle. In 1800, the ingenious, worthy, and active Thulis became director, which situation he still holds.

The whole structure, bearing the name of "Observatoire de la Marine," lies on a hill, called Bütte des Moulins, which may be considered as the highest point of the town. The building consists of three stories; in the first of which the concierge resides; in the second, the director; and the third is the proper observatory. This consists of a landing-place, a large square room, with two smaller ones on each side. Besides these, are three round towers; one on the north façade, and two on the south; all having portable domes. The roof of the observatory itself is flat, and forms a fine terrace. In the center is a weather-cock, whose plate and hand are inserted in the ceiling of the largest room. The instruments are as follows:

1. A fine gregorian telescope, by Short, with the date 1756. foc. 19 decimeter. It rests upon a parallactic machine, by Acajou, and magnifies from 300 to 1200 times. Both the glasses have been much occidated during twenty years.

2. Another telescope, by Short, foc. 65 centimeter. It magnifies from 90 to 300 times, and is supplied with two micrometers.

3. An achromatic telescope, by Dolland, foc. 11 decimeter, opening from 36 millim. It rests upon a parallactic machine, by Acajou, can be fitted for a tribus terrestris, and is well supplied with every necessary apparatus.

4. An acromatic meridian telescope, foc. 97 centim. axis 81 centim. It is made by Lennel, and has an excellent niveau.

5. A portable quadrant of 97 centim. radius, by Le Noir.

6. A fixed quadrant of 1 met. 5 radius. It rests on a wall of freestone, but is so badly regulated as to be wholly useless.

7. An excellent astronomical clock, and several other smaller astronomical instruments, by Louis Berthoud.

8. The collection of meteorological instruments, formerly belonging to the Meteorological Society at Manheim, and sent here in 1781.

The observatory possesses, exclusive of the private library of Thulis, only the following works:

A perfect collection of the Connoissance des Temps, &c. from 1760; a perfect collection of Astronomical Ephemerides; Lalande's Astronomie, the edition 1771, 1792; Tables of

Logarithms, by Gardiné. The eighth volume of Observations, published by the Meteorological Society of the Palatinate of Manheim.

Such is the present state of the observatory of Marseilles: a judge will easily perceive that it is far from splendid; still the zeal and skill of Thulis and Jean Louis Ponz, deserve the highest praise, and give an assurance of what it might become under more favourable circumstances. Monsieur Thulis's apartment deserves notice, as it commands a charming view of the gulph and town; besides which, he has built himself a study, which leads to a beautiful terrace and garden: here he receives his literary visits.

In this room, and upon this terrace, we were almost daily entertained by one of the noblest of German princesses! by one of the greatest astronomers of Europe! Lovely, beautiful mornings! you will be ever memorable to me. In the midst of winter we are here refreshed by a soft southern breeze: the sky and ocean smile; the larks warble, the doves coo, pinks and narcissuses, almon and orange trees, all are clothed with the luxuriance of spring: even the ground of the terrace is diversified with knots of mignionette and *Antirrhinum cymbalaria*.—Often would Thulis exclaim, "Were but Seeberg transplanted to this climate, it would not only be the *first*, but the finest observatory in Europe!" I now proceed to the learned societies, with which I shall close my account of the literary institutions of Marseilles.

Among these we find, first, the Medical Society, which is chiefly occupied in examining local diseases, and thereby capable of affording much real benefit. Secondly, the Academy of the Fine Arts and Sciences, which, notwithstanding the loss of its chief friends, maintains an honourable existence, and may be considered as one of the most respectable societies in France. Willingly would I be louder in its praise had I not in this instance received the honour of becoming a member: to avoid being thought partial, I dare say little more than that Achard, Thulis, Azuni, H. H. Girard, Sinery, Delyle-St.-Martin, Brac, Roustan, Barthet, Besson, &c. are valuable men, and deserve your greatest respect.

Monsieur Girard, secretary-general of the departments, is a pleasing poet, as well as an able statesman. He is now employed on a statistical view of the departments, which (judging from what I have seen) will have many advantages. Monsieur Sinery, ci-divant marquis and general of a regiment of dragoons, has distinguished himself by many interesting works, among which his Agriculteur du Midi does him great credit. Notwithstanding his advaced age, he labours with wonderful facility; and is now writing a work on agriculture in the district of Marseilles, which

will contain the result of twenty years' experience and observation.

Monsieur Delyle-St.-Martin, formerly a marine officer, has chosen mechanics for his favourite pursuit, and has invented several machines of general utility. Among them is a very simple sowing machine, some ventilators, on a new construction, &c. which deserve a place in the memoirs of the academy.—Monsieur Brac, who studied for many years at Gottingen, and still venerates the memory of the great Heyne, may be classed among the most eloquent members of the academy. Besides this, he is a great musical amateur, and performs with singular skill upon the harmonica.—Monsieur Roustan, a private gentleman, devotes his property and leisure to sciences. He has taken great journies to the Levant, with the description of which he is now occupied. He is a worthy and amiable man, from whom I have received many acts of kindness. —Monsieur Barthet is also a great artificer, and a very cultivated man; I saw an exellent telescope and some astronomical watches of his making.—And Monsieur Besson, apothecary, is a skilful chemist, who has simplified many Parisian inventions, the best and purest drugs are to be had of him.

I must yet mention a few more members of the academy, whose merits are universally acknowledged, though I have not the honour of being personally acquainted with them: these are, Vidal, Joyeuse, Odossaint, Blanpain, Duhamel, Gorse, Desfougeres, Aulagnier, Pascal, Borelly, Audibert, &c.

The performances of Stamaty in cork deserve the attention of every admirer of the arts, on account of their fineness, lightness, and beautiful form.

LETTER XIII.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF MARSEILLES.—PHILANTROPIC INSTITUTION PRIOR AND POSTERIOR TO THE REVOLUTION.—OBSERVATIONS.—GENEROSITY OF MADAME THULIS.—LOMBARD BANK.—COMITE DE VACCINE.—REGULATIONS OF THE POLICE FOR THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE.—PUBLIC PAPERS.—PRINTING-OFFICES.

IT is necessary to premise my account of the Philanthropic Instution by remarking, that the consequences of the revolution are still, in this particular, severely felt.—Formerly there existed twelve public, and many private hospitals; one for poor travellers; one for aged women; one foundling-house; one orphan-house; one lying-inn hospital for poor unmarried women; a hospital for poor servants; one for the widows of sailors; and, in every

parish, one poor-house.—Since these institutions have been plundered of their funds, we find only the following:

The great hospital, which serves at the same time as a receptacle for foundlings.—The "Hospice de la Vieillesse" and "l'Adolescence," a work and orphan-house.—The "Hospice des Insensés," a mad-house, which receives also other sick.—A "Bureau de Bienfaisance," for the relief of poor in their own houses, which is on that account united with a medicinal and chirurgical society.—A Societé de Bienfaisance, formed by the exertions of Messrs. Thulis and Roustan, to whom Marseilles is indebted for the introduction of the Rumford soup.

I cannot forebear mentioning a lady, whose zeal more than supplies the place of one institution. I mean the ever to be venerated Madame Thulis, wife of the director of the observatory. Like an angel of mercy, and with the philantropic ardour of a Howard, she receives all sick persons in want of assistance; all forlorn prisoners, and all neglected poor. No exertion is above her strength, if it do but alleviate human misery. She has but one passion—the love of doing good. She is known and almost deified by all Marseilles. Words can but weakly express the homage I feel for the virtues of this estimable woman!

While speaking of philanthropic institutions, it may not be improper to mention the Lombard-bank, which has existed since 1695; and the "Comité de Vaccine," instituted by Doctor Aulagnier, where children are inoculated gratis with the cow-pox.

Among the police regulations for the public benefit, I have observed the following:—Bureau d'Indication; Bureau de Confiance; Entrepot general de la Glace; several excellent bathing-houses, one in particular kept by Madame Coste, and one by Cit. Roubelin. Lastly, the excellent arrangements of the fiacres, which are to be met with in the Canaliere from seven in the morning till midnight.—In a word, the police of Marseilles is admirable.

The public papers consist of a weekly "Nouvelliste Marseillais;" an annual "Almanac de Marseilles;" a journal containing miscellaneous intelligence, called "Correspondence Litteraire, Scientifique, et Technographique du Dep. des Bouches du Rhone," arranged by Achard. I, of course, include the usual price-currents, ship-lists, &c.—I counted here sixteen printing-offices, some of which had several presses.

LETTER XIV.

PROVINCIAL DIALECT.—GENERAL REMARKS.—PROVERBS.—CHARACTERISTIC SKETCHES.—LUDICROUSNESS OF THE PROVINCIAL FRENCH ACCENTUATION.—PROVINCIAL NAMES.—DICTIONARY.—POEMS.

MARSEILLES, *January* 1804.

YOUR wish to have some remarks upon the provincial language might give me an excellent opportunity of shewing the depth of my learning. But do not fear a dissertation, I reserve it for another time, and shall for the present content myself with saying, that the provincial language has been formed from the languages of the different nations to whom Marseilles has belonged. Consequently it is a composition of Grecian, Roman, German, Arabian, Spanish, Italian, and modern French words. It has, during two hundred years, lost that original purity established by the Troubadours, which has only been in some measure preserved in the mountains.

As a proof that it is particularly since the revolution, and even amongst the lowest classes, rapidly giving way to the French, and that the pronunciation is a mixture of the tones used in the abovementioned languages, I shall now give you a few of the most striking proverbs, upon which many philosophical observations might be made.

For example, they say of a rough austere man, "Es un Arabe;" he is an Arab. Of a man of gallantry, "L'amourraoharie d'uno gato corriffado;" he would be enamoured of a cat if it had but a cap on. Speaking of a paltry inefficacious measure, they say, "Es uno garbounado entre doueis violos;" it is a carbonade between the flame of two lamps. Of a person violently actuated by anger, "A coulero tuaria un pan per un fournier;" he would, in his fury, kill the bread instead of the baker. The qualities of the ass, the countryman's faithful companion, afford a numerous train of similies and proverbs. I shall introduce one, because it will remind many readers of their own country: "Se l'a uno bueno ribo, es par un marrit ay;" the laziest ass gets the best morsel.

Of an intolerably stupid person they say, "Es espes, coumo uno murailho mestrer;" he is as thick as a foundation-wall. A lover calls his mistress "Madelicado;" my pet; or, "Ma ber-

giero," my shepherdess. You will peaceive that in this language the feminine gender always terminates in o.

Of a man who derives great profit from any trifling thing and with little trouble, they say, " L'es sach une madono," he has converted it into a milch-cow. Numerous and characteristic are the proverbs concerning the female sex : thus it is said, " Apres tres jours, l'on s'ennuegeo de fremos d'hostes, et de pluego." In three days one becomes weary of women, company, and rain, &c. &c.

Another proverb runs thus: " D'ausfeono, de chins, d'armo et d'amours, per un plesir mille doulours." Birds, dogs, arms, and women, bring a thousand pains for every pleasure.

Or, " Amours de courtisan ben de vielan, et fé de femelan noun duroun pas passat un an." The love of a courtier, the inheritance of a miser, and the fidelity of woman, evaporate in a year.

Or, " La fremo et la castagno de fouero bello dentro es la magagno." Women and chesnuts are fair without and foul within.

Or, " Douis bouens jours à l'homé sur terro, quand prend monilbe et quand l'enterro." A married man has two good days ; that on which he marries, and that on which he buries his wife.

Or, " Oumbro d'homé, vau cen fremo." The shadow of one man is of more worth than a hundred women.

Or, " Fremos et telo, leis foou pas veiné a la candelo." Women and linen must not be viewed in the daylight. Another remarkable expression is the famous " Ti cali un basséour." I will give you a box on the ear. It is, however worth remarking that the blow always precedes the threat.

Other characteristic proverbs are the following : " Quu a ben dinat, cres leis autreis sadouls." Those who have eaten heartily, think others must be satisfied. " Jour passat, jour gagnat." A day passed is a day gained. " Lauso la mar, ten ti en terro." Praise the sea and stay on the land.

Nothing can be more comical than to hear French pronounced with the provincial accent ; in which case, " plus haut" is changed into bissau ; " verser," into vesser ; " frotter," into fretter ; " peu," into bau, &c. &c.

Still more laughable is it when whole words and proverbs are intermingled with pure French : there you hear " j'ai vu une fess," instead " j'ai vu une fois ;" or, " j'ai acheté une trousse cu," instead of " acheté un porte-epée." Trou, is substituted for trop, and vid for vie. The best of all was, " Madame l'a fait sans metraire," which signifies only, " Madame l'a fait de bonne

grace;" the last being expressed by the provincial sense "mau traire."

I conclude by recommending Achard's dictionary, and the poems of Gros, to your particular attention. The latter author has very happily imitated the old Troubadours.

LETTER XV.

CHARACTER AND MANNERS OF THE PEOPLE.—GENERAL REMARKS.—LOWER CLASSES.—THE MEN.—FISHERMEN.—PORTERS.—COUNTRY PEOPLE.—SKETCHES.—SUBDIVISIONS.—ANECDOTES.—WOMEN.—SKETCHES AND ANECDOTES.—HIGHER CLASSES.—OBSERVATIONS.

MARSEILLES, *January* 1804.

YOU wish to be made acquainted with the provincial character. I hasten to fulfil your request, and lay before you the result of my observations.

The character of these people appears to have three ruling imperfections, though mixed with many good qualities, roughness, violence, and inconstancy. But this is in some measure counterpoised by their freedom from duplicity and cunning. They are passionate, violent, and tenacious; but show, at the same time, much good-nature, and often even generosity. They catch at every thing from the impulse of the moment; and their friendship and love, their zeal and activity, their courage and bravery, are all equally transient.

The attentive observer discovers every where, both morally and physically, a peculiar mixture of the Grecian and Oriental, as well as of the French and Italian. Their persons and manners, language and habits, vices and virtues, all remind you of the historical vicissitudes, or mercantile connections of this province.

The men of the lower classes are in general distinguished by a coarse and low stature, bristly hair, strong and passionate features, and, above all, by the wild blaze of their eyes. But the fishermen, porters, and country people, possess some peculiarities which must be spoken of distinctly.

The fishermen form a distinct and separate class, in which all the energy of the ancient character, all the simplicity of the ancient language, and all the originality of ancient manners, are preserved and concentrated. Their songs, their dress, their mode of living, every thing informs us that they are the undegenerate descendants of the Phœnicians; but to describe their delicate features—their comely forms—that is past my power.

These provincial fishermen have, for whatever concerns the

fishery, a proper court of judicature in Marseilles, known by the name of "Jurisdiction des Prud'hommes Pecheurs," and has existed since the tenth century; but in its present form only since 1431. It consists of four seniors, called "Prud'hommes," who are changed every year, and possess, during their administration, unlimited powers.

The court is usually held on Sunday afternoon; the complaints are made verbally, and the cause is decided either by the opinion of the judge, or a majority of voices. "La ley vous coundano;" the law condemns you, excludes all appeal, and finishes the affair. The "Prud'hommes" are dressed in black, and receive a fee of two sols from each party. Besides this, these fishermen have archives full of important records concerning their trade-laws, &c. which have been preserved inviolate even during the revolution.

Their gymnastic exercises deserve no less attention. These consist of mast-runing and single combat, called Bigno and la Targuo. For the first, a mast is rubbed with grease, and the skill is displayed in running from one end of it to the other bare-foot. The second is conducted as follows:—From twelve to sixteen light boats are provided in the front, with boards four foot long and ten inches broad. Here the combatants take their places, armed with shields and lances, the boats being rowed each by six strong men. They then divide to a proper distance, and, upon a given signal, suddenly row towards each other. Whoever plunges his opponent the most frequently into the water bears away the prize.

I shall now proceed to the porters, who are distinguished by the deep redness of their faces; the prominence of their eyes; the compression of their necks; and the breadth of their shoulders. Beware of him when he is loaded, for then he is blind and deaf, and would knock you down ten times without being himself once aware of it.

These men form another society. They have their apprenticeships, prize-pieces, seniors, brokers, money-gatherers, &c. United into one common body, each must be answerable for the other. From their very moderate way of living, they possess an extraordinary degree of corporeal strength. "Four hundred weight," say they, "is a trifle; six constitute a proper load;" but from eight to nine commands uncommon respect. The famous Marquetos at Toulon brought it to ten, and his fame is commemorated by a colossal figure under the balcony of the senate-house.

The peasantry form the third interesting class, under which are understood the inhabitants of the higher and lower mountains, and those of the flat country. The former are remarkable for their open, bold, and free dispositions; their honesty, industry, and good nature, are highly praised through the whole province: al-

though they do not regularly emigrate, yet great numbers go to the large towns in the southern provinces, and are eagerly hired as waiters, cooks, and other menial servants. The "Gavouets de Barcelonette" are famous for their mercantile talents.

The inhabitants of the lower mountains appear to be much worse, which may be attributed to their regular excursions into the southern provinces, Here, with their wives and children, they seek support through the winter. The men hire themselves as carters, helpers, labourers, manufacturers, &c; the women wash and sell fish; and the boys clean shoes, sell chesnuts, or lead about marmots with organs. The girls either go out to mend old cloaths, or commence a little trade with figs and cheese; in short, each member of a family must have some occupation for his support, and from which he can save something for the summer. The love of gain seems to be the ruling passion of these mountaineers.

The peasants of the level country are almost universally decried as malicious, but I believe unjustly; and that their greatest faults are, roughness and impetuosity. One of these peasants will shoot a handful of small shot at you for taking a single fig from his tree; but for a friendly word he will give you a hat-full. The reapers form a still more interesting class of these country people.

The province, considered according to its ancient boundaries, presents three large divisions, rendered by the climate very different from each other. They are the lower, middle, and upper parts, where the harvest naturally falls in three different months. Thus in Napoule, the most southern point, they commence reaping at the end of May; in Aix, at the end of June; and at Barcelonette, at the end of August. Hence it is easy to conceive that reapers travel for employment through the whole country.

Accompanied by their wives and children, they proceed in caravans of from eighty to a hundred, from place to place, and always towards the north. Each caravan has its superior and subordinate reapers, and its common stock, which is never divided until the labour is finished. All their necessaries are carried with them by asses; they travel only during the night, and pass the whole harvest time in open air. Their manners are patriarchal, constituting but one family; and forming close connections of pleasure without the sanction of either law or gospel.

The women of the lower class are a truly Amazonian race. They have little beauty, but much corporeal strength. It is impossible to conceive of any beings more rough, hard, or violent; but their rectitude demands the highest encomium. The wives of the fishermen, porters, &c. have their peculiarities,

from their different modes of life; but they all agree in their endeavours to vie with the men in hard labour, and in keeping them in perfect subjection. Whoever wishes to study female government, I advise to betake himself to Sourribes; where he will find a complete *female republic,* and the men only regarded as *slaves.*

The unmarried women of this class have, notwithstanding the many freedoms they use, much self-government. A young man must first be their acquaintance, their friend, their betrothed, before they will permit him the slightest indulgence. Thus they secure their future power; and they are careful never to let their tenderness influence their conduct. The least contradiction, the slightest neglect, procures his instantaneous dismissal.

When a lover is become insupportable to his mistress, she uses no verbal declaration to make her will known; but when he next comes, places a log of wood before the fire-place: nothing more is requisite to inform him he must never appear there again.

But I hasten to conclude this subject by a few remarks on the higher classes. The physical and moral organization of the men is tolerably French; yet the noisy provincial frankness is evident on all occasions. The women are lovely, and almost irresistibly alluring; but the greatest egotists in the world. They change their lovers as they would their dresses; they love but for a moment. Dilettanti consider it as a matter of course, and would find Marseilles a paradise full of luxurious houris.

LETTER XVI.

PARTICULAR CUSTOMS AND DIVERSIONS OF THE PROVINCE.—CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS.—OTHER ANNUAL FESTIVALS.—PROVINCIAL DANCES.—THE FARANDOULO.—THE MORRIS DANCE.—THE EQUESTRIAN DANCE.—PROVINCIAL GAMES, AND ATHLETIC EXERCISES.

MARSEILLES, *Jan.* 1804.

IN no form are the character and disposition of a people so visible as in that of pleasure; no time can be more interesting to the observer than the moment when a people abandon themselves to their feelings without guile or restraint. Compare the following particulars with my former traits of character; I leave the conclusion to yourself.

To commence then with the social festival of Christmas. When this time draws nigh, every family, in easy circumstances,

sends for a cask of wine, and lays in a stock of southern fruits; which, as they arrive, may be seen on the quay in large quantities. In the flower-market, orange branches, with fruit or blossoms, in elegant tubs; rose-trees, in beautiful pots, &c. are set out for sale; as also all kinds of toys for the children, and laurel-trees, hung with various kinds of southern fruits. Among the toys monks are again to be seen.

The Christmas evening is devoted to universal joy and festivity. Every booth, cellar, coffee-house, &c. is illuminated, and the table of the poor chesnut-roaster has an additional lamp. The theatres give grand ballets: the gaming-houses balls and soupers; and the streets are crouded through the whole night with people and bands of music. That which I most admired, and no provincial person ever forgets, even when at the greatest distance from his country, is a sort of sacred entertainment, at which the whole family is present. The relations who have been absent from each other perhaps during the whole year, are to meet on this evening; those who have been the greatest enemies pardon each other at Christmas; marriages are fixed; married pairs who have been separated, are at this time again united; the shyest lover becomes eloquent, and the most coy fair one becomes kind—every heart dilates with good-will, love, and tenderness, on Christmas evening!

It is well known, that at a true provincial entertainment, "Noya" (cake made of honey and almonds), the "Kalignau," (a fire of fir-wood dipt in oil and wine), the Turkey-cock, the Muscadel, and the Noes, (appropriate songs), are things absolutely indispensable.

In the country, (where the national character is in all games the most easily to be discovered), the old provincial customs are preserved in still greater purity. Here are prize-races, combats, songs, cock-fighting, climbing, &c. at which, naturally, the flowing bowl is never wanting. One particularly pretty custom I must not forget to mention, which was much in use in the former lower provinces, particularly in the vicinity of Frejus and Antibes.

About four weeks previous to Christmas, the youths of the village serenade all the young women usually on the Saturday evening, in return for which honour each is obliged to present to the oldest of the youths, called Aba, a cake at Christmas, marked with her name. As no one ever neglects to fulfil the obligation, the second day of Christmas brings a splendid collection of the whole village, and the cakes are sold by auction in the following manner:

The Aba having mounted a small stage, on which the cakes are placed in baskets, elegantly decorated, he commences, "A fine,

light, sweet, delicious, charming plumb-cake, number one, Maria Coutelon." The orator then taking the cake in his hand, proceeds to expatiate on the beauty, notability, and other perfections of the maker. The bidding then commences, and the cake is finally consigned to the richest or most persevering among the bidders. In the same manner one number follows another, until all the cakes are sold; and the money thus produced is applied to a dancing fund.

Several other feasts follow that of Christmas, some of which I dare not pass over in silence. One of these is the feast of the Epiphany, called "Fête de la belle Etoile;" when a waggon, illuminated and drawn by six mules, is led about amidst shouts of exultation. Another on that of Antonius, when the reapers, on the 17th of January, go through the streets with sickles and wheat-sheaves, prophesying to every one, for a gratuity, a good harvest.

On the 1st of May the Carri, a sort of mock king, is driven about in a carriage, adorned with flowers, accompanied with drums and trumpets, and followed by a numerous cavalcade. On Whit-Monday, the Ramada is celebrated by the mowing a public meadow by stations, and accompanied by a variety of sports. On the feast of Corpus Christi a similar procession takes place to that in Aix; but in Marseilles it is less grotesque, and is described by Papon and Beringer.

Another is the feast of St. John; then all persons are mounted on horses or asses, and parade about with *pegons*, or burning fir branches in their hands accompanied wtih continual firing, very appropriately called "Faire la Bravado." The harvest-home; at which they carry columns of wheat-ears, of from eight to nine feet high, about in procession, and then dance round them in rings. The wake, when all is decorated with flowers, ribands, and flags of various colours. The vintage feast, at which an antiquated figure is carried about, sitting in a half cask, covered with vine-leaves and grapes: and many others might be mentioned; but I confine myself to the provincial dancing feasts, and a few more of a similar nature. First, that which is peculiarly provincial, and is, in reality, nothing more than a sort of volero, or representation of licentious attitudes; but appears by no means so lively as the Spanish dance, being, at times, even ungraceful. The dancers appear chiefly to vie with each other in shewing the pliability of their feet, knees, and hips, and in this they truly excite admiration.

Secondly, the Farandoulo, which is evidently of Grecian origin. The dancers are united by the hands, and dance either in circles or long rows, passing under each other's arms in proper measure, without breaking the rows. The men and women

are often separated, and their union in the dance gives rise to many gallantries.

A third national dance is the Moreske, or morris dance; of which there are properly three sorts. The first, known by the name of "Les Bergeres," is a sort of agricultural ballad, being danced with scythes, hoes, spindles, reels, &c. The second, called "Les Turques," is a sort of political ballad, if I may be allowed the expression. They dance with gravity in long rows, and make gestures of the profundest deliberation.

The third, "Les Moresques, proprement dites," is a sort of amorous ballad. The knees of the men are hung with bells, and the women are adorned with flowers. The dance is a sort of volero, particularly towards the conclusion.

A fourth sort of dance is "Les Epées," a martial ballad. Here men and women are mixed in one chequered heap, and appear in a sort of furious engagement. The music of all these dances consists only of a fife and drum, quite in the Moorish manner.

A fifth national dance is "Les Chevaux Frux," or equestrian dance. From fifteen to twenty young lads are buckled on small pasteboard horses, upon which they appear to ride, although, in reality, they only stand in them. The upper part of their bodies is covered with ribands, nosegays, &c. Thus equipped, they have the the appearance of old centaurs. They perform all sorts of movements, dance quadrillon, pursue each other in lines and zigzag, and exhibit the utmost variety of manœuvres amidst the incessant shouts of the spectators.

I shall conclude by mentioning a few games, no less characteristic than their dances. Among them may be reckoned the races, which are run in various ways; for example, directly towards a given spot, over a ploughed field, in sacks, &c.; leaping over hedges, ditches, ropes, scaffolds, jumping, with the feet bound to a certain point, or jumping in a circle, with a given number of movements; feats with a spear and iron ball; the game of ball, with common ball; and a warlike game, where a small wooden trench is attacked and defended, and many similar ones, at all of which prizes, of more or less value, are distributed.

LETTER XVII.

DESULTORY OBSERVATIONS.—SEVERE COLD.—ORIENTAL JEWS.—PERE CUEZZO.—THE ISLAND OF MARSEILLES.—CHRISTMAS NOSEGAYS.—UMBRELLAS.—LA SAINTE BAUME.—NANI.—THE FRENCH.

MARSEILLES, *January* 1804.

THIS is the last letter I shall write from this place, and I shall fill it with desultory remarks and information, just in the manner in which I noted them.

The mistral has now blown uninterruptedly for eight days, and all Marseilles is in consternation. "Ah mon Dieu, quel froid!" "Fa un frech despastellat!" resound on all sides. Men and women are enveloped like Greenlanders; and every street filled with mules, carrying fire-wood. The cold may have probably reached from twelve to fifteen degrees. God preserve us! strange that it should be more than three to four degrees—and even then the people of Marseilles would be more affected than a Russian with twenty. Happily, the cold seldom lasts here longer than three days, and seldom exceeds above six degrees.

If you see a man with pale, meagre, sharp countenance, and a dirty white turban, hastily striding through thick and thin, you may rely on his being an eastern Jew. Consider more attentively the strange mixture of Asiatic and African character displayed in his features, in which shrewdness is blended with knavery, and confidence with timidity; and you will find it deserving your attention.

See the same man on the exchange bidding for a lot of hides, wax, or senna, or bills on Constantinople or Smyrna, for which he can always procure ready cash, and give the best price; here he is a very important man, and turns millions in the year. Were it not for these Jews, how would it stand with the trade of the Levant?

If you like to sleep long in the morning, which, by the bye, you ought not; and if you should, besides this, have irritable nerves, you will be badly off in Marseilles. As soon as the day dawns a cannon is fired: it is the signal for opening the haven, which is closed every evening by a chain. Scarcely have

you again slumbered after the second firing, which announces its opening, than you are rouzed by the lamentable tones of "Pere cuezzo! Pere cuezzo! Tutte caude!" They announce, perhaps, the departure of some great personage?—By no means —they are only crying "Hot baked pears;" the usual breakfast of the labouring manufacturers. In the evening they eat baked turnips, and then every street rings with "Betterave; Betterave! Tutte caude! Tutte caude."

The islands of Marseilles are called Pomegues, Katonneau, and If. At the first, which has a small haven, all ships supposed to be infected with the plague, lie to perform quarantine. Of the second, no use is made; but on the third is situated a little fort, formerly used as a state prison, but now as a place for depositing persons under sentence of transportation to Corsica and Elba.

Each of the islands have a small fortification, some guard-houses, and a few batteries; nothing else is to be found on them. They are about three leagues distant from Marseilles. It is impossible for the imagination to conceive a more melancholy view than that of seeing these three naked desolate rocky masses, lying in the midst of the gulph. They might be compared to three monstrous heaps of dross, especially when the sun shines on them.

On Christmas-day, no young woman, not even the poorest pedlar, is to be seen unadorned with a nosegay. The rich make theirs of roses and narcissuses; with both rich and poor it often forms the only covering of the bosom. The churches, the promenades, every place is filled with their odoriferous perfume.

At this season, in every window are found little green pyramidical bells. These are produced by sewing wheat or millet on cotton, with which the pyramid or bell has been previously covered. Those who are too poor to procure orange or rose-trees, decorate their windows in this simple manner.

In Marseilles, many umbrellas are made and sold at a very cheap rate. It is astonishing what a dread the people here have of being wet. The instant it begins in the least degree to rain, every person appears with an umbrella, not excepting porters and mule-drivers, fruit-women and shoe-blacks. If they should even be half naked, still they will have an umbrella.

From whence can this arise? Perhaps, because it rains so seldom, and because they dread nothing so much as damp: they can bear hunger, thirst, fatigue, and great heat; but no wet. It rains—"Pluego! Pluego!" if a few drops fall on them, they think themselves past recovery.

La Sainte Baume—a naked high mountain, a grotto in a rock, to which you must ascend four hundred and fifty toises, is cer-

tainly nothing so very remarkable. But Mary Magdalen having passed the last penitential days of her life in this grotto, gives it an immediate interest, notwithstanding the loss of the pretty chapel and Dominican cloister destroyed during the revolution. La Sainte Baume still remains a favourite place of resort for pilgrims; but the wicked say only for the fair-sex, among whom are so many Magdalenes:—let him decide who fears not the hatred of the fair daughters of Marseilles. I, for my part, retire to my books.

Here I find a work, unquestionably a poetical masterpiece, a mystical blossom, the purest offspring of self-knowledge. This is the Magdaleniade of Father Pierre de St. Louis, and may be found printed in the collection of Monnaie.

Jean Louis Barthelemy, born at Valreas, in Provence, in 1626, was enamoured of a young woman named Magdalene. He was on the point of marrying her when she died. He gave himself up to despair, and resolved, in the Carmelite convent of his native place, to live alone to the memory of his beloved. In this situation of mind, no occupation seemed to suit him so well as the composition of a poem, whose theme was the patron saint of his departed mistress.

For five years had he laboured, almost night and day, without intermission, to complete it; and he is said to have studied for four-and-twenty hours for the following line, in which he offers a caput mortuum to the consideration of the saint:

"Elle voit son futur dans ce present passé."

He had it printed at Lyons, in 1661, under the title, "La Magdelaine au desert de la Ste. Baume, en Provence. Poeme spirituel et crétien, en douze livres." It remained, however, during the life of the author, wholly unknown; but, on his death, it was rescued from oblivion by the Jesuit Beret, and afterwards was many times reprinted. I affix a few specimens.

ON THE SAINT'S CONVERSION.

"Mais enfin Dieu changea ce charbon rubis;
"La corneille en colombe, et la louve en brebis;
"Un enfer en un ciel, le rien en quelque chose:
"La chardon en un lys, l'épine en une rose;
"En grace le péché, l'impuissance en pouvoir;
"Le vice en la vertu, le chaudron en miroir.

The saint spent thirty years in the desert weeping over her past life.

"Ces bois la font passer pour une hama-dryade;
"Ses larmes font penser, que c'est une nayade;
"Venez donc curieux, et vous rencontrerez
"Une nymphe aquatique au milieu des fôrets."

In the sequel, the eyes of the saint are called, " Chandelles fondues;" now they are become " Moulins à vent," " Moulins à eau." The fair hair with which she wiped the feet of the Saviour is called, " Torchon doré;" the tears which God wept are called, " Eau de vie;" Christ is, " Le grande opérateur," " Le grand Hercule, qui purgea l'etable de son cœur," &c. &c.

In another place, we find the following curious discourse between the saint and the echo:

M. Que donne le monde aux siens le plus souvent?
Echo. Vent.
M. Que dois-je vaincre ici, sans jamais relacher?
Echo. La chair.
M. Qui fut la cause des maux, qui me sont survenus?
Echo. Venus.
M. Que faut dire après d'une telle infidelle?
Echo. Fi d'elle.

It is natural to suppose that such a poet must have had a high idea of his verses, which led him to say:

" Si vous aimez des vers la grace et la douceur,
" Les miens en ont assez, pour vous gagner la cœur;
" Et si vous en cherchez les subtiles pensées,
" Les pointes de ceux-ci ne sont point emoussées."

That he considered himself as a great poet from his Eliade, in which he describes the ascension of the prophet Elias, and through which he hoped to supplant the prophane Iliad. This poem has, however, remained unprinted, because, in the opinion of the Carmelites (who held their brother to be an eminent poet) it was too sublime!!

It is inconcievable how much provincial women can express with the two-syllable word *nani*; they have twenty modulations of it at least:—Sharp and quick! you may rely on it the fair one is really angry!—The first syllable long and the last hardly audible! now again you may hope a little!—Both syllables slowly pronounced! I wish you joy! It is the affirmation of affirmations!

Some houses of rendezvouz for sailors have taken the name of " Hotel des Quartre Parties du Monde;" and the weekly paper of Rouen appears with the title of " Cronique de l'Europe, et Petites Affiches de Rouen."

CHAP. XVIII.

JOURNEY FROM MARSEILLES TO TOULON.—AUBAGNE.—EUJES.—VAUX D'OLLIVULES.—THE FIRST ORANGERIES.—ARRIVAL AT TOULON.—TOPOGRAPHICAL PARTICULARS.—CLIMATE.—AGRICULTURE, &c.

TOULON, *January* 1804.

WE arrived here three days ago. No one enquired for our passes. This is, however, only an apparent negligence; for they had received a description of us before, and were acquainted with our having addresses to the marine-prefect.—No spy can elude the police here.

We commenced our delightful journey by the full light of the moon at four in the morning. The air was every where scented with the odours of spring. We soon passed the lovely Veaunethel, and as rapidly proceeded to Aubagne, the native place of the celebrated Barthelemy (author of the Travels of Anacharsis, &c.) and famous on account of its wine (known by the name of "*Malvoissier d'Aubagne,*" Muscadine wine) and for its manufactories.

Eujes, situated at the skirt of a finely cultivated valley, is of less importance. Here we took dinner, and saw, for the first time, whole declivities covered with caper-plantations. At the back of this town the road leads through high chalky rocks, on whose highest point a detachment of soldiers are stationed; the only measure which could have cleared this post from the robbers which infested it. A dreary and desolate scene now presented itself, and the view of a *Pinus maritima* (or rosemary-bush) was a perfect rarity. At length the passage began to be straiter, and we entered the narrow pass covered with fragments of rocks, called, Vaux d'Ollivules; the extinguished volcano, the masses of black basaltes; the foaming streams from the mountains, the awful darkness; all reminded us of the entrance into the infernal regions.

These barren rocks, however, soon vanished, and gave place to others, whose gentle slopes were clothed with olive and pine-trees, with blooming almond trees and rich grass-fields. Yet, a few paces, and the orangeries of Ollivules burst on our sight,—

The rich green—the fruit of burnished gold—it was more like enchantment than reality!

The sun was just sinking into the purple deep, when, leaving Ollivules, we ascended the last acclivity, and were charmed with a clear view of the roads of Toulon, its towers, and its ships, and refreshed by the soft southern breezes from the ocean. When we reached the town, it was dark, and we found nothing but the bustle of war and the confusion of a sea-port.

Toulon has one of the pleasantest and most advantageous situations which can be imagined. On the north it is bounded by high mountains: on the south, by the ocean and gulph, which penetrates far into the land; on the east and west, by a small chain of mountains, running from the high northern ones into the sea. Thus is formed a fine valley about three leagues in width, on whose southern point lies the town of Toulon, containing 20,000 inhabitants.

Descending from the highest point of the town, the Porte de France, to the haven, you find the higher part, or old town, narrow and disagreeable, and the lower, or new town, beyond comparison, more airy and far better-built. In both it is, however, a real pleasure to obsérve, the streets cleansed and cooled by small streams running through them.

The sides of the northern mountains are quite bare; but those of the eastern and western are covered with plantations of vines, olives, figs, capers, &c. The whole valley is interspersed with fields, meadows, gardens, country houses, vineyards, &c. and intersected with innumerable streams and canals, brought from the mountains.

The climate of Toulon is certainly much milder and more healthy than that of Marseilles. It is true, the summers are hot, but nothing impedes the salubrious sea-winds. The winters are four and six degrees milder; the town being almost intirely protected from the cold winds. Every thing ripens three or four weeks earlier; indeed, a great part of the southern vegetation (date-trees, for example) stand the winter in the open air. For these reasons, the old naval officers chuse it, if possible, for their place of residence.

With respect to domestic economy, nothing is very cheap. Nine livres daily is the least for which a person can reside at the best and most reasonable inn, the Hotel de Montanville. A furnished room in a private house costs from thirty to forty livres; a summer-house from twenty to twenty-four; and a whole bastide from four to five carolines per month. The prices of other articles are very similar to those of Marseilles. The best Malaga wine is sold for two livres the bottle. Every thing, even including the fine water from the mountains, is of the most excellent quality. But enough for to-day; my next shall contain farther particulars.

LETTER XIX.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE.—AMUSEMENTS.—GENERAL REMARKS.—MARINE ARSENAL.—GALLERIES.—FRENCH NAVAL FORCE.—ROADS.—FLEET, &c.

TOULON, *January* 1804.

WHOEVER expects to find the social resources or amusements of Marseilles in Toulon, will be greatly disappointed. The theatre is insignificant, the concert scarcely worth mentioning, and the general spirit of the place rather naval. Those who will entertain themselves, however, with marine affairs, walking, natural history, and the belles lettres, need never be at a loss.

For naval studies this place has many advantages: for instance, the arsenal, roads, dock-yards, and fleets, on account of which Toulon has been always famous. We have visited all, and have convinced ourselves that Buonaparte can do a great deal.

We were provided with letters of recommendation to the marine prefect; the Contre-Amiral Gantheaume, and his secretary, General Berard. The Admiral received us with true provincial cordiality. He spoke of Buonaparte, of Egypt, and Syria, with the freedom of a sailor, but yet mingled with attachment and respect. Monsieur Berard charmed us all with his amiability. Azuni, to whom I am indebted for the recommendatory letters, had not spoken of him too highly. Our wishes were instantantly fulfilled, and we were permitted to visit the fleet and arsenal for three successive days.

The arsenal lies between the haven and the parade. Pity that the fine entrance is situated in a narrow and remote street. When you have passed the forms of admission by the officer on guard, you find yourself in an open square, from which you can pass to the different parts of the arsenal. The first object that attracted our attention was the ruins of the grand magazine, nearly destroyed by the English in 1793. We hastened over the foundery and rope-grounds, on our right side, that we might spend the more time among the ships in the dock-yard, where we found ourselves, on all sides, encompassed with marines, sailors, and galley-slaves; on all sides surrounded with maritime bustle and activity.

From thence we proceeded to the famous dock, whose construction will surely immortalize the name of Grognard. It is a deep basin, enclosed in brick-work, in the haven of the arsenal; its form is that of a line-of-battle-ship, its length is 180; its breadth 80, and its depth 18 French feet.

In the front is a sluice-gate or lock, capable of being opened and shut at pleasure; and in the back a building, with 84 large pumps; by means of the former, the basin is filled with water for bringing the ships in; by means of the latter, it is emptied for reparing them. The inner side of the basin is provided with steps, at proper distances, for the purpose of getting more conveniently to all parts of the vessel, it is also furnished with many flights of steps leading from the bottom up to the quays.

From hence we passed through a strongly-guarded gate to the galleys, where we found other prisoners beside slaves. These galleys are old ships of war unrigged and unmasted, having their decks enlarged and covered with a roof about five or six feet high; they are encompassed with a gallery, and have, in the fore part, steps, which lead to the shore. The whole is painted red, and has the appearance of a barrack.

Having shewn our tickets to the captain, we received immediate permission to enter the largest of the galleys; the internal part was divided off by two long rows of benches, leaving a wide path in the middle; each bench contained four galley slaves, and had a hole opposite for the admission of air; in the back part was a kitchen, and on each side an apartment for the inspectors. The whole appeared to be much more cleanly, airy, and capacious, than is generally imagined. Each galley contains 1200 prisoners, whose lot, though hard enough, is by no means equal to the representations given of it.

It is true, the slaves are mostly chained two and two, have no other bed than the bare ground; no other covering than coarse rags; no nourishment, except what is usually allowed in prisons, and are, notwithstanding, doomed to the severest labour. Still there are a variety of modifications, by which the situation of many is rendered supportable.

First, the slaves are compelled to labour only every third day, on which they receive a larger portion of food. Secondly, should they behave well, they are, at the expiration of six, eight, twelve, or sixteen months, freed from their heavy chains, and confined only by a light ring on the foot; the slaves thus far emancipated work by pairs, but are no longer chained together. Thirdly, every one is at liberty to procure, either by his own labour, or the bounty of others, whatever necessaries a galley permits him to enjoy.

He may, for example, purchase for himself a mattrass, better linen, cloaths, &c.; when it is his turn to labour, he may be exempt by paying another to work for him; he can send for meat, and even wine in moderation; and lessen the rigours of his situation in a variety of other ways.

Each galley receives properly, five hundred active slaves on board, and as they are paid by their employers and the sailors for extra-labour, the very poorest may always relieve himself to a certain extent.

Among the slaves living on their fortunes are frequently found men, who have formerly filled the most respectable situations. The galley we visited contained, of this description, among others, a general, who had sold false dismissals to banished persons; a lieutenant of marines, who had been found guilty on a charge of insubordination; a commissary of war, who had defrauded the treasury; and a secretary of the marine, who had given in false estimates.

To these (who were condemned for twenty or thirty years) the upper aparfments were appropriated; they were distinguishable from the rest of the slaves by their dress, cleanliness, &c. and had laid out for their amusement little gardens, filled with orange and lemon-trees.

Among the slaves who live by their own exertions, are frequently found very skilful artisans and professional men. On board the galley of which we are now speaking, was an engraver, a musician, a watch-maker, and a goldsmith; of whom the inspector spoke in high terms. Every galley, besides half a dozen buffoons, has ten or twelve men who wash, an equal number of cooks, and at least four barbers.

We left the galley (where all the gradations of the passions may be traced in the various features of its inhabitants) and hastened to inspect the remaining parts of the arsenal; comprizing the smith's, cooper's, and sail-maker's shops; the foundery and rope-grounds; the mast-maker's, baker's, and other places, which cannot be properly described without plates.

Adjoining to the smith's, we were shown a small cabinet, filled with a variety of nautical curiosities, and in the marine school a room, containing models of ships and instruments for teaching navigation, ship-building, &c.

The model of the basin, vessels, &c. was very interesting, as it conveyed a most perfect idea of the original, and appeared to have been executed with uncommon precision; yet we found in some others a great want of that cleanliness and elegance which distinguish the Dutch and English models.

Having examined the different parts of the arsenal, we saw that, notwitstanding the irregularity of its appearance, its form

is a perfect quadrangle, open on one side, having the dock and haven in the centre. A spirit of zeal and diligence seemed prevalent in every department, as well as a spirit of order and method; there appeared to us a greater want of hands than of materials for manufacturing; and we left the place with the conviction, that, although a most excellent commencement is made, yet a marine force is not to be raised like an army of conscripts; because in the former case, the greatest enthusiasm can never make good the want of experience.

This conviction was confirmed on the following morning, when we saw the fleet lying in the roads ready for sailing. We first went on board the admiral's ship, and were very cordially received by the famous Latouche; we visited many other vessels, and were treated with great politeness; we discovered throughout the whole, much order and discipline among the crews,—but yet a want of dexterity: this remark was allowed to be just, even by the admiral himself. Although all the ships were filled with troops, new companies were daily embarking. The fleet is victualed for six months, and every thing seems to designate an expedition to the West Indies.

The roads of Toulon are, with justice, reckoned among the first in Europe; few are equally large, and consequently, few equally secure; surrounded on all sides by mountains, and guarded by a number of forts, they at once defy both storms and every hostile enterprize. These picturesque mountains, covered with the most luxurious vegetation, the grand fleet, encompassed with innumerable small craft, the view of the town, and the high glittering ocean—form one of the finest scenes in the whole Mediterranean Sea.

LETTER XX.

TOULON.—PROMENADES IN THE TOWN.—THE COURSE.—THE PARADE.—THE QUAY.—THE RAMPART.—THE GLACIS.—THE VALLEY.—THE MOUNTAINS.—EXCURSIONS.—LA VALETTE—BANDOL, &c. &c.—AQUATIC EXCURSIONS.—THE PENINSULA ST. MANDRIER.—NATURAL HISTORY.—BOTANY.—ICHTHYOLOGY.—CONCHOLOGY.—MINERALOGY.—REVEST.—BRONSANT.—EVENOS.—OBSERVATIONS ON THE INDUSTRY, TRADE, AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF TOULON.

TOULON, *January* 1804.

BUT the promenades! methinks I hear you say, are they numerous? are they varied? are they shady? I will describe

them as they really are; judge for youself. In the town you find the course with only a tree here and there; the parade decorated with a double avenue of trees, which produces a very pleasant impression; the quay exposed to the meridian sun, but affording much nautical amusement; the rampart very retired, with a charming prospect.

In the suburbs is the Glacis, with tolerable walks, and many fine views. Farther on lies a foot-path between the meadows and vineyards of the valley; and finally, the sloping sides of the finely cultivated mountains.—Shade in truth, they have not; but we only spend the winter in Toulon.

For more extensive rambles, I mention to you several delightful places, Vallette, Belgoncier, Bandols, La Farlede, &c. &c. all in great repute for the salubrity of their air, fine vegetation, and enchanting scenery. To those who wish for a rural retreat, Vallette, only four miles distant from the town, is particularly desirable.

Have you a taste for aquatic-excursions? the roads (capable of containing three hundred ships) will give you ample scope for indulging it: on which occasion you must, by no means, omit visiting the lovely peninsula St. Mandrier; as I have been deprived of this pleasure, I will insert for you the account given of it by Berenger.

"The peninsula St. Mandrier—says he,—is about two thousand paces wide, and about a league in length, it is divided from cape Sepet, and the fort, by an arm of the sea flowing majestically along, like a fine stream. The house at which I resided, situated on the declivity of a hill, between the roads and the town, must not be passed over without a more minute description.

"You land on a fine green lawn, encompassed with gravel to resist the waves; by a gentle acclivity you are led through vines and olives to the garden-door; from whence you discover the house embosomed in jasmine, olives, and pomegranates; here, seated on a shady terrace, you may copiously inhale an accumulation of odours, borne to you on the breezes of the sea; beyond this is a hollow, filled with tuberoses, Arabian jasmines, *Heliotropium Mignonette*, &c. and shaded by palm, pistachio, and cordia trees; farther on you meet with a walk formed by a double row of orange and pomegranate trees, leading to a cool grove of *Pinus maritima*, aspen, and poplar trees.

"At the back of the house you ascend a fine eminence, at whose extremity rises hill above hill, cloathed with vineyards and fig-trees; these are succeeded by an odoriferous vegetation of rose-mary, myrtle, broom, &c. till having attained the summit, you rest under the friendly shade of firs and larches.

"Should you feel disposed to climb another mountain, you will

have gained the highest point of the peninsula, where, from the hermitage you command an unbounded view, including the vale of Toulon, the roads, and part of the ocean, as far as the islands of Hyeres."—Thus much for the pedestrian: we will now speak of that in which Toulon can interest the naturalist.

The fine botanical garden near the gate de France, superintended by Martin, surprises and charms the connoisseur, by displaying a variety of the scarcest and finest plants, from the Archipelago, Asia, Africa, and the West Indies, and prove what the climate and a southern sun are capable of effecting. In a private garden too, are a number of choice exotics, in all the splendor of their native soil. No less interesting are the exotics of southern Europe, growing on the mountains, and the aquatic plants found at the foot of the hills bounding the roads.

The treasures here open to the icthyologist and conchologist, may be learnt in the celebrated work of Darluc, which I shall not now extract, that I may occupy the space with some oryctognostical descriptions and remarks (partly taken from Saussure) concerning the supposed volcanos of Revest, Broussant, and Evenos

Revest is a village lying two short leagues north of Toulon: on the side of a neighbouring mountain, volcanic remains are thought to have been discovered; but Saussure maintains, that those reddish thick layers are nothing but sand-stone, mixed with particles of white quartz, and red ochre; the component parts being kept together by a sort of calcareous cement. The country people call this stone "Pierres colombales," and distinguish it definitely from lava "Pierres moresques." It seems that by a chemical analysis, the cement before-mentioned being dissolved with nitric acid, the quartz fell to the bottom, and the ochre remained at the top and descended slowly.

From hence a rather steep road leads up to the extreme summit of the Montagne de Caume; when you have ascended part of the way, you may clearly discover the limestone resting without any intermediate support on the sand-stone; and at the same time analyse the structure of the limestone, which is very various; sometimes forming parallel flakes, which can conveniently be decomposed into vertical ones; but much more frequently large ones adhering to each other, rather convexed, but like the former, having the appearance of strata.

The pinnacle of the mountain rises, according to Saussure's computation, 408 toises above the level of the sea, commanding a very distant horizon; but the view on the land-side is far from agreeable, consisting of chalky and nearly shapeless mountains; whose barren sides are but sparingly spotted with a small portion of shrubs.

On the western side of the Montagne de Caume, you come to the village Broussant, where you may make many mineralogical observations. Here it is that you discover a stratum of pure violet-blue lava, and extremely porous, but not a single vestige of a crater. On the top of the hill you find a peculiar sort of stone, consisting of masses nearly vertically perforated, and irregularly separated; they are composed of three different substances, a ground of iron-grey, variegated with brimstone, coloured, interspersed with glittering particles of crystal: it seems to be a fair presumption, that it is not liquified stone, nor proper basalt; but only a basalt of a peculiar nature.

The next place famous for its reputed volcanic productions, is Everos: they appear, however, on close inspection, to be only amygdaloides interspersed with quartz and calcareous spar; upon the hardest the magnet operates very powerfully, on the softer ones slightly only, although both suffer a very strong attraction after being applied to the blow-pipe.

I must not omit directing your attention to the nakedness and sterility of these mountains, which, contrasted with the abundant cultivation within two miles of the coast, cannot fail to surprise every beholder; as you advance farther inland, nothing meets your eye but bare mountains of chalk, gravel, &c. It appears, from various documents, that they were formerly covered with the finest and most extensive forests, which have imprudently been destroyed. Hence we observe a want of wood and of meadow-land. The fertile earth no longer having any thing to keep it together, is washed away by the heavy rains; while the springs and brooks are dried up: hence the lower extremities of these mountains are continually exposed either to a parching aridity, or to violent rains. But I must hasten to speak of the manufactories, of which there exist only those for night-caps, stockings, and coarse woollen cloths; the famous ones for soap being removed to the towns on the coast of Genoa. The hat-manufactories have nearly sunk into decay, but a few manufactories for refining wine, and some brandy-distilleries, have lately been established.

The trade here is chiefly confined to the coast and provinces. Toulon conveys the produce of the adjacent country, viz. wine, oil, capers, figs, oranges, almonds, &c. to Marseilles and Genoa; and receives from thence French, Spanish, Italian, and Northern productions. The merchants who transact the most business with this place, seem little more than agents for Marseilles; while the chief support of the town is derived from the navy.

Toulon can boast but of few public institutions, either for the instruction of youth, or for the relief of the poor. For the former

I have only observed a Lyceum, an "Ecole de Navigation," and an "Ecole de Santé Navale;" for the latter only a "Hospice Militaire," and two "Hospices Civils."

The literary society so well known by the title of "Societé Libre du Var," does not meet at Toulon, but in Draguignan, the chief town of the department, and the seat of the prefect. In this place appears a weekly paper, called "Bulletin du Departement du Var."

LETTER XXI.

ARRIVAL IN HYERES.—INTERESTING ACQUAINTANCE.—SITUATION OF THE TOWN.—VIEW OF THE COUNTRY.—AIR AND CLIMATE.—DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—EXCELLENCE OF PROVISIONS.—HINTS FOR TRAVELLERS, &c.

HYERES, *Jan.* 1804.

ARRIVED at last in my lovely little southern Patmos, I daily wander over its delightful mountains and beautiful vale. That I find little novelty, must be admitted; but every deficiency is made up by an acquaintance I have formed with Baron Reizenstein, ambassador at Paris, from Baden, since 1793; who is, in the fullest sense of the word, an excellent man!

But you wish me to speak of the situation of Hyeres. It is, indeed, happily chosen, lying in a delightful vale, open on the south to the sea, and bounded on the north-east and west by towering mountains. The northern chain of mountains is divided from the western by a narrow pass, being the road to Toulon, at whose sloping entrance is the town, divided into three distinct parts. The suburbs, which skirt the mountains, are tolerably cheerful and cleanly; the town itself, in the centre, is very dark and dirty; and the old town, on nearly the highest part, presents a heap of uninhabited ruins. The suburbs are, on every account, to be preferred, and have, on the whole, a neat and rural appearance, but do not display any thing either splendid or romantic. The population of Hyeres is estimated at seven thousand souls, but two thousand may be fairly deducted.

The vale on which it is built is nearly circular, the surrounding mountains are picturesquely formed, and partly covered with fertile plantations of fruit-trees, ever-green oaks, &c. and command a prospect of the vale, variously interspersed with gardens, villas, meadows, and fields: of which, however, only two thirds can be cultivated, the other consisting of marshy ground, running into the sea.

However sultry or unhealthy the climate may be in the summer, or from May till October, in the winter it is doubly to be recommended for its mildness and salubrity. If we deduct 20 or 24 cold rainy or windy days, it may be, without exaggeration, affirmed, that the whole winter resembles a fine spring.

Although Hyeres is not entirely defended from the *mistral*, which forces itself through the pass in the mountains; yet it blows here with less violence and frequency, and is, besides, by no means so penetrating as in Marseilles. Although the thermometer may possibly fall to the freezing point, and even, as in 1709, 1768, and 1789, five or six degrees lower; yet these are very rare instances.

A mild temperature and excellent air render Hyeres a desirable winter residence. Inhale but this pure balsam for a few months, and you will become another being!

Provisions are here of the best kind. The water is pure and light; the bread fine and of a good flavour; the wine by no means bad: it is best, however, to send for wine from Toulon, which is not attended with the least difficulty. Here is an abundance of fish, venison, poultry, &c. and the mutton of Hyeres is particularly famous. The fruit, particularly strawberries, oranges, and pomegranates, are deservedly in high esti mation; and the vegetables, particularly artichokes, are proverbially fine. Cow's milk and butter are now no longer rarities, as in the time of Zulzer: whatever else the stranger may want, is easily procured from Toulon; to which place a conveyance goes daily. To persons preferring to reside at an inn, I recommend the Hôtel des Ambassadeurs; here you find a charming prospect and good accommodation. Should you prefer living in a private house, you may have a newly furnished house in the country for from one to two, or from three to four livres per month. A single room in the town costs from twenty to forty livres per month, according to the number of foreigners there.

Should you wish to provide for yourself, you may have a cook in your house for three livres per day, or be assisted by the persons with whom you lodge. I must, however, observe, that the former is very expensive, and the latter very inconvenient. Should you like to be provided with board, you may either dine at the table d'hôte, or in a separate room, for which you may agree at thirty or forty sous. If you are accustomed to certain dishes, or confined to a certain diet, you find it no objection. My opinion, however, is, that the stranger would do better to board and lodge, as above-mentioned, for from six to twelve livres. You are excellently attended, have no trouble, and upon the whole live at a cheaper rate.

I shall conclude this letter with a few desultory remarks, for the benefit of future travellers. If you have need of a physician, you will find in Doctor Pannon a very skilful one. If you wish to ride out every day, you may be gratified for from thirty to thirty-five sous. If you chuse a private house, be sure to fix on the highest part of the town, taking care to shun the damp northern side. As most of the floors are of stone, you should insist on carpets, and to provide yourself with socks, fur-shoes, &c.

LETTER XXII.

AMUSEMENTS OF HYERES.—SOCIAL LIFE.—READING.—PROMENADES.—EXCURSIONS.—SALT-WORKS.—THE ETANG.—THE PENINSULA GIENS.—THE ISLANDS.—NATURAL HISTORY, PARTICULARLY BOTANICAL AND MINERALOGICAL REMARKS.—AGRICULTURAL AND STATISTICAL REMARKS, &c.

HYERES, *Jan.* 1804.

WHAT social intercourse can be found in Hyeres? Certainly too little, although of other amusements there are, on that account, the more. Every thing depends on the number of strangers; when there are many, viz. when it is a good year, balls, concerts, assemblies, literary circles, all follow of course. When it is a bad year, the amusements are less numerous; but pleasure is always to be found in Hyeres.

For those who like reading, there is a pretty private library here; besides which, books may be had with great facility every day from Toulon; and you may, every evening, read the best newspapers and journals by the post, for about three Louis d'ors in the whole.

The promenades, both in the vale and around the mountains, are so various, so picturesque, abounding in romantic spots; in extensive and grand prospects of land and sea, in the most brilliant colours:—but no one can describe these scenes better than Baron Reizenstein.

The pretty hermitage on a fine hill in the vicinity of the sea, forms an interesting excursion; it is called Chapelle de Nôtre Dame de l'Assumption; beyond that the Montagne des Oiseaux (Montague de Carqueirane), from whose summit you may enjoy the most exquisite prospect: still farther are the salt-works on the beach, the Etang, the peninsula Giens, and the islands—all amply repaying the trouble of a visit.

The salt-works consist, as usual, of a number of small basins, separated by canals that may be shut at pleasure: it is both instructive and pleasant to see the manner in which the salt-water is admitted, mixed with river water, and conducted from basin

to basin, till it forms crystals: this can only take place in summer, viz. from May to September. The magazine, habitations of the superintendants, excisemen, &c. form the appearance of a little sea-port. The salt is mostly sent to Toulon, Marseilles, and Genoa, and produces a revenue of 400,000 livres.

The Etang is about four English miles from the town, situated in the centre of an isthmus running from the southern coast; it is about a league long, and half a league broad, and is divided into two parts by a narrow slip of land: at the southern end a salt-canal has been made, and many niches cut in it, by which Hyeres is plentifully supplied with fish. The three little islands in the midst of the Etang, contain a great number of aquatic birds, particularly recommended to the notice of the sportsman.

The eastern part of the isthmus, in whose centre the Etang is placed, joins the roads of Hyeres, and is called la Plage de la Manarre ;—the lower part of the isthmus is the peninsula Giens, containing a variety of interesting objects.

The three islands of Hyeres are called Porquerolles, Porticros, and du Levant. The first is the most western, the largest and most woody; it contains about eighty-five inhabitants: the second lies three leagues farther to the east, more elevated, very fertile, and has about fifty inhabitants: the last is inhabited the least, fruitful, and about three quarters of a league distant from the second in a similar direction.

These islands may all be seen from Hyeres, from which they are between four or five leagues distant; they are defended by small forts, and covered by a vegetation of lavender and strawberries. Porticros is the only one having a haven. The beautiful basin in which they lie, (about five and twenty sea leagues long, and fifteen wide) is called the roads of Hyeres.

In all these perambulations the naturalist, the agriculturist, and mineralogist, may make a variety of interesting observations.

The mountains deserve to be examined on account of the matter composing them: the northern ones consist of slate, and the southern ones of lime-stone, modified, however, by a variety of mixtures and gradations. The most remarkable is the micaceous earth on the Island St. Jean, and the singular union of lime and spar on the Montagne des Oiseaux.

What a number of southern plants, distinguished by their beauty and variety, arrest the attention of the botanist at every step; while the the manifold sorts of oranges and lemons, open to the pomologist an infinite field of enquiry!

Not less interesting is the system of agriculture adopted in the south of France, and which may here be studied with much

pleasure and profit. Here where fruit, vegetables, and flowers attain the highest perfection, he may convince himself, that the Capeau, in union with small brooks, produces this fertility, but at the same time forms the unhealthy morasses which extend along the coast, in length a league, and in breadth a quarter of a league: the exhalations arising from these morasses occasion the epidemical diseases of the southern summer. We may expect some very copious and accurate information on the agriculture and natural history of this place, from Volney, who has been spending some weeks here.

The chief products exported from Hyeres, are oil, wine, fruit, vegetables, and flowers, which are sent, almost exclusively, to Marseilles and Toulon. The oranges alone are very productive; at present they sell a thousand for forty-five livres. In the summer they export by water, loading the vessels at the beach near the salt-works; but in winter all merchandize must be conveyed at least as far as Toulon by land, the coast being much too dangerous.

The draining the marshes, forming a canal as far as Hyeres, finishing a secure haven, already commenced by Ceinturon, might be completed for thirty thousand livres, and would be followed by the most beneficial effects to the health, the trade, and opulence of the inhabitants; but for a century all has evaporated in empty wishes.

To the observer of human nature, Hyeres is very interesting. The people are distinguished from the inhabitants of all other provinces, by refinement and gentleness of manners; they are worldly minded, and possess that pliability of character which enables them to gain the favour of persons from all nations of the world. They understand the management of the sick, even to the most trifling minutiæ; with an inordinate love of gain, they never forget the preservation of this fame: much as they depend upon strangers, they always regard them as sacred.

How inexpressibly sweet are here the tranquil hours of solitude, enjoyed under the serenest heaven, embosomed in a land of ever-blooming sweets:—here have I felt a soft ecstasy unknown before; for here it was that the illustrious princess once stood, whose approbation is my pride; whom to honour is the happiness of my life; whose name Europe utters with reverence; and whose fame the history of the sciences will render immortal!

I cannot conclude this letter, I think, more acceptably, than with a few general hints for the advancement of your health and convenience.

I take it for granted that, since you have allotted only twelve hundred dollars for the expences of your journey hither, you are without a servant, and master of the French language; that you

are provided with letters of credit from a substantial house, a passport from the French ambassador, and with letters of recommendation for every important town through which you intend to pass: but this is not enough for one in your precarious state of health.

In order to avoid the detestable post-carriages, you would do well to hire a separate conveyance at Frankfort on the Main, alighting at the Weidenhof, to rest yourself. This house is particularly to be recommended to sick travellers, for its open eastern situation; from whence you may continue your route, either through Alsace or Swisserland.

Should you chuse the former, you may go to Strasburg, in the diligence, in about forty hours, where you will find another equally convenient to take you to Lyons. In the latter case, you can proceed to Basle, in the imperial diligence, fitted up quite in the French style, where you will meet with another to convey you to Geneva; from whence you proceed to Lyons with a courier. At Strasburg, the house of Weiss is well known for its fine situation and extreme cleanliness. At Basle, you would do well to lodge with Iselin, at The Three Kings; and at Geneva, aux Balances, where you will be well satisfied with the attendance and table. Should you prefer an inferior inn, you will, perhaps, do better to put up at the Krone.

At Lyons, where you will, of course, rest a few days, there is good accommodation at the Parc au Parc, situated in the Place de Terraux; or the Hôtel des Ambassadeurs, in the Place Bellacour. From Lyons you can go to Marseilles in the diligence; but you must take your place in time, or you will not procure one. I should advise you by no means to go by water.

When you arrive at Marseilles, do not neglect to chuse an open and sunny residence, should you design to stay there for any length of time. You would find it conducive to health to let your food be simple, chiefly consisting of mutton, fruits, and wine, which you here find (as before remarked) in high perfection.

When you wish to proceed to Hyeres, take the diligence, which sets off at four in the morning, and arrives at Toulon between six and seven in the evening. From thence, I should advise you to take a horse, and proceed to Hyeres, sending your baggage by the errand-cart. If you manage your journey thus, it will not cost you more than six livres; otherwise, you must pay ten or twelve.

The best time for visiting Hyeres is the middle of September, returning to Germany at the end of April, by which you avoid the autumnal storms.

On your arrival in France, do not omit to enquire what is esteemed contraband. Shew your money without hesitation, but do not forget to ask for a *passe-avant*, which will readily be granted. Do not omit to use your worsted stockings, fur-shoes, and other warm clothing, with which you have, of course, been careful to provide yourself, and which are indispensable for the preservation of your health. Adieu.—My next will be from Nizza, to which place I am now hastening.

LETTER XXIII.

ARRIVAL AT NIZZA.—COUNTRY AND CULTURE.—SITUATION OF THE TOWN.—THE RAMPARTS.—TERRACE.—OBSERVATIONS ON THE TRADE, INDUSTRY, AND CLIMATE.—DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS.—AMUSEMENTS.—GENERAL REMARKS, &c.

NIZZA, *January* 1804.

HAVING taken shipping at Hyeres, I landed here after a dangerous navigation of three days, and was enchanted with the view of the lovely gardens, and groves of almond and orange-trees on the opposite shore. There are various conveyances from Hyeres to Nizza by land, the post, the courier, the diligence, or return conveyances; by water you may take either a felucca to yourself, which is very expensive, or take your passage in a coasting-vessel, which is very inconvenient.

The country round Nizza is in an excellent state of cultivation; particularly the last half league before you reach the town, presenting a beautiful and variegated assemblage of houses, gardens, vineyards, &c. &c. on each side of the road: farther on you come to the old Benedictine abbey of St. Pons; and beyond that to the late Franciscan cloister Cimiez. From the terraces of both, but particularly of the latter, you may contemplate the most magnificent and inviting prospect.

The town lies at the foot of the mountain Montalban, and by no means abounds in remarkable edifices, although most of the churches are internally well decorated; that worthy of the most attention is the cathedral, where it is easy to perceive that you are on the borders of Italy.

The ramparts afford a charming display of fine scenery, presenting, as it were, a new object at every step.

Not less delightful is the long and spacious terrace adjoining the shore of the gulph, from whence you may contemplate a variety of pleasing objects, and enjoy the most refreshing sea-breezes.

The trade of Nizza is certainly an insignificant provincial one: its chief articles are oil, silk, oranges, lemons, and vegetables; for which are returned (chiefly from Marseilles and Genoa) corn, shawls, linen, hardware, spices, sugar, coffee, salt, &c.

The principal branch of industry appears to be the preparation of perfumery, which has increased very much, to the great injury of Grasse, since the union of this place with France.

The climate of Nizza (during the five months) is undoubtedly the mildest and most salubrious in all the south of France. Deducting a few storms preceding and following the winter solstice, it is impossible to live under a milder heaven. Nothing is to be apprehended from cold, the high chain of Alps entirely barring its access: this mild temperature produces, however, one evil, and that not a slight one; I mean the number of insects which abound, not only here, but in Hyeres and Marseilles; particularly the large gnats, which, notwithstanding the use of iron bedsteads, moss-beds, nets, fumigations, &c. always remain a great nuisance.

Every article is here full as expensive as in Marseilles, perhaps, even more so. On your arrival, you may go to the Hôtel de York, in the place St. Dominique; after which it would be better to take lodgings in the suburbs, making a definite agreement for every thing you wish to have, and being very particular as to the cleanliness of the furniture. Take care to avoid living in a country-house, as they are generally damp and unhealthy during the winter. I would not advise you to provide your own food, but agree to have it sent from an hôtel: and as the water is bad, you should never use any without passing it first through a filtering-stone.

Beside the variety of charming promenades with which Nizza abounds, there is a theatre, a casino, a reading-room, and a circulating library, by no means to be despised.

LETTER XXIV.

WAY TO VILLAFRANCA.—SITUATION.—WARM CLIMATE, AND FINE VEGETATION.—WAY TO MONACO.—PICTURESQUE SCENERY.—HAVEN, AND TRADE.—MENTON.—REMARKS.

VILLAFRANCA, *January*, 1804.

YOU see I am constantly advancing along the coast, and shall conclude this from Menton, a little sea-port. Villafranca is not more than three quarters of a league from Nizza; it is most pleasant to go by water. The view of the roads, the high

mountains, the isthmus, the distant scenery formed by the town; the woods, the little batteries peeping between the lofty trees, with a number of other interesting objects, were truly picturesque and delightful.

The climate of Villafranca seems to be still hotter than that of Nizza, from the concentrations of the sun's rays between the mountains. The *Ceratoria siliqua* may here be seen in as much perfection as in Catalonia; and were it not for the indolence of the inhabitants, ananas might also be grown: the little isthmus is, however, well cultivated, and produces the finest oranges, lemons, and olive-trees, some of the latter having trunks six feet in diameter.

From Villafranca I passed over to Monaco, preferring the land conveyance, though inconvenient, for the sake of enjoying the fine country, and was fully recompensed when I ascended Mount Eza, by the prospects from its towering summit. From thence I proceeded to the little village Eza, which lies on the sea-shore, on a steep declivity; and passed on through naked and gloomy rocks to La Turbia, where the remains of a monument, erected to the honour of the emperor Augustus, are still to be seen. A few paces behind Turbia, Monaco is discoverable, standing on a rock united to the main land by an isthmus, which may be considered as a sort of peninsula.

You now descend one high mountain, and ascend another, until you finally reach Monaco, which consists of nothing more than about half a dozen miserable and thinly inhabited streets, forming the town, to the left of which lies the castle.

The only thing worthy of notice in this "Petit Paris," as the inhabitants called it before the revolution, is a beautiful terrace, formerly belonging to a convent of nuns, commanding a fine and extensive prospect as far as Corsica.

The rocks on which Monaco lies, are overgrown with *Cactus opuntia*, and form a sort of winding harbour, tolerably secure, except with an east wind. Monaco derives, however, little advantage from it, as it possesses only some small craft for the conveyance of oil and lemons to Nizza and Marseilles. It would be unjust to omit mentioning the politeness of the inhabitants, although Monaco is one of the most wretched places in the whole department.

MENTON, *January*, 1804.

A PICTURESQUE country, and a profusion of lemon-trees, announced to me my approach to this opulent little town; in fact, the lemon-trees constitute its whole wealth. The fruit is sent by the inhabitants to France, England, Holland, and Den-

mark; there are individuals whose gardens produce them from 10 to 12,000 livres per annum, although a thousand lemons never sell for more than 25 livres: as Menton has no harbour, foreign ships are obliged to anchor a quarter of a league distant in open sea, where they receive the lading from small vessels.

The inhabitants appear to be very good-natured and obliging. A stranger may, without scruple, enter a lemon-garden, and runs no risk of offending the proprietor should he gather some of the fruit. The finest of these gardens belongs to Carnolet castle, formerly the property of the prince of Monaco, and sold during the revolution for a mere trifle.—I must slso mention that, at a small distance from Menton, grow a quantity of fine palm-trees, whose branches are sent to Italy, and form no inconsiderable part of the trade of this town.

APPENDIX.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS

AT

MARSEILLES.

INTRODUCTION.

THE plague can only be propagated by touching infected objects.—This maxim is the foundation upon which all quarantine regulations are founded. No communication is held until the possibility of infection is vanished, or the perfect health of the suspected objects is fully ascertained:—this fundamental principle must be recognized in every stage of quarantine. Thus it is in Marseilles, where every thing is under the direction of a board of health, subject alone to the controul of government.

In order clearly to understand the excellent and celebrated quarantine laws of Marseilles, a distinction must be made between the preparatory measures and the proper quarantine. Under the former is comprehended every thing relating to the examination of suspected ships, &c. Under the latter, every thing necessary for cleansing and purifying them. Of both I shall speak at large.

EXAMINATION OF THE CERTIFICATES.

ALL ships coming from the Levant, and other suspected ports, must anchor, on their arrival, in the gulph of Marseilles, near the Island Pomigues, a few sea-leagues from the town. Here they are examined from the fort by means of a speaking-trumpet:—"Where do you come from?—What is your name?—What is your lading?—What certificate have you?"

Upon the certificate depends the necessity of performing quarantine, and its duration. These are received from the French consul, in the place where the ship takes in her lading, and contain every particular concerning the state of health there, exactly and conscientiously set forth: according to the variations they contain, they are called "Patente nette," or "touchée;" "Patente soupçonnée," or "brute."

They are called "Patente nette," when the state of health is described as perfectly free from every infectious disease. "Patente touchée," when the ship, though at the time free from sick persons, came to them from a suspected port. "Patente soupçonnée," when they declare there prevailed in the port where the vessel came from, a pestilential or epidemical disease; or that she held communication with caravans coming ftom countries where the plague rages; and finally, "Patente brute," when they expressly declare, that the plague rages in the haven, or adjacent country, and that goods are on board coming from thence.

According to these certificates are the nature and duration of quarantine decided, and for their authenticity the consul must answer with his life.

No ship coming from a suspected port or harbour can be admitted: and should the captain have, in this respect, been guilty of negligence, or insincerity, it exposes him to many inconveniences, and severe punishment.

According to these certificates is determined near what part of the island the newly arrived vessel shall anchor. Ships with "Patente nette," and "touchée," remain in the usual harbour of the island, where the place is assigned to each: vessels, on the contrary, with "Patente soupçonnée," and "brute," must anchor in a small cove called la Grande Prise, on the north side of the harbour.

As soon as the ship is at anchor, the captain must go to the habitation of the "Substitut du Bureau," a clerk appointed by the board of health for this purpose;——and here commences (naturally at a necessary distance) a new and minute examination, which, when taken down in writing, is transmitted to the chief board. Captains having "Patentes nettes," and "touchées," receive permission to go to the Consigne; while those who have "Patentes soupçonnées" and "brutes," are sent to the lazaretto: in order, however, to prevent all communication with them in the interval, a "Bateau de Service" is appointed to tow them to the place of destination.

The Consigne is a building where the chief board of health sits; it is situated to the left, at the entrance of the haven of Marseilles, under the fort of St. Jean, and is built on a rising ground: it contains three large rooms, some small ones, an antichamber,

and magazine; all the windows provided with iron grates. In the fore-part is a pier where the boats are brought up. When the captain arrives, the first thing is to administer the oath; but for this, no bible is used, and only a square paper with the beginning of St. John's gospel; this, covered with glass, and pasted to a board of the same size, is reached to him with a long handle, while the officer pronounces with a loud voice, "Swear, that you will speak the truth!"

After this formality, which is never omitted, commences a minute enquiry:—"Where do you come from?—What is your name?—What lading have you?—When did you sail?—Have you run in any where during your voyage, or held any communication at sea?—What luggage have you?—What passengers have you?—What is the general state of health on board your vessel?"—In a word, they make every enquiry possible in such a case; after which the captain must deliver his certificate, by placing it in a split stick, which is held to him for the purpose: when it has been been dipped in vinegar, it is spread out on a board for the perusal of the intendant, who compares it with the declaration before received, and only pronounces it "regular" in case of the most perfect accordance.

Should the captain have letters, he must deliver them in like manner: those for the government and persons of rank are fumigated, those for the merchants are immersed in vinegar, and cut open at the edges, and carefully searched, to prevent the enclosure of patterns, &c.

For fumigating the letters, an oaken cylinder is used, six French feet in height, and a foot and a half in diameter, covered at every joint with iron; the top is provided with a cover, and the bottom entirely open: two feet below the cover, a small grate is placed, and under that a ring, which exactly fits a coal fire of the same size. When letters are to be fumigated, they are laid on the grate, and the cylinder placed over the fire into which the perfume has been previously thrown; by the closing the lid, the evaporation is prevented, and the letters absorb the smoke in every part, while the writing and paper remain uninjured.

This being ended, the captain returns to Pomegues, where, under a guard, he awaits the resolution of the board as to the nature of the quarantine he must hold. Should his "Patente" be "soupçonnée," or "brute," and he be subjected to the lazaretto, he is again examined on the quay, and must then return on board, in expectation of farther orders.

SUBJECTION TO THE QUARANTINE.

THERE are four things which have an influence in the appointment of quarantine with respect to its nature and duration, viz. the certificate, the goods, the harbour from whence the vessel comes, and the incidents which may have happened during the voyage.

With respect to the first, it has been spoken of; we therefore pass on to the second, namely, the goods, which are classed as either susceptible of infection *(susceptibles)*, or not susceptible *(non-susceptibles.)*

Those susceptible of infection are, wool of every kind, cotton raw and spun, flax, hemp, oakum, goat's hair, silk, linen, woollen-stuffs of all kinds, spunge, furs, morocco, dry skins, books, parchment, Spanish-leather, paste-board, feathers, coral-beads and rosaries, hardware, cloaths, money, fresh flowers, untarred hemp, and cordage.

Goods not susceptible are, spices of all sorts, coffee, orpiment, tobacco, raw coral, undressed hides, gauze, pearl-ash, nitre, wax, ivory, gall-nuts, natrum, grain, shell, fruits of all sorts, ore, plants used for dying, cochineal, ashes and soda, oil, minerals, salt meat, dried fruits, wine, spirits, and liquids in general, horn, esparto, tallow, and tarred cordage.

The vessels are all classed for their quarantine according to the harbours from which they come. Those from Dalmatia, as far as Egypt and Morocco, come under the first mentioned quarantine; those from Tripoli and Algiers, in the second; and those from Constantinople, Smyrna, the Black Sea, &c. in the third: this class extends also to the Spanish, Italian, and North-American harbours, (on account of the yellow-fever) according as the ship was laden nearer or farther from these places.

The fourth or last point influencing the nature and duration of the quarantine, is formed by the incidents occurring before or during the voyage, for example: When the plague raged for the last time, and how long in such sea-port?—Whether, during the passage, any person or persons had become ill, or died?—Whether the ship had been boarded by a corsair?—Whether he ran into one or more suspicious ports?—Whether he has had any suspicious communications while at sea?

In order more clearly to shew the modifications of the quarantine, we state it as follows:

1. Ships with "Patente nette," but having on board "susceptibles," from any of the sea-ports to the east of Dalmatia, Egypt, and Morocco, must perform quarantine twenty days.

II. Ships with "Patente touchée," having similar goods, and coming from the same port, must hold quarantine twenty-five days.

III. Ships with "Patente soupçonnée," goods similar from the same harbour, must submit to twenty-five days quarantine; and the goods are, during nine days, exposed to the air.

IV. Ships with "Patente brute," lading the same, perform quarantine thirty days, preceded by a fourteen days' airing of the goods on board.

V. Ships with "Patente nette," lading "non susceptibles," coming from the same port, must perform quarantine eighteen days; those with "Patente touchée," twenty days; with "Patente soupçonnée," twenty-five days, and fourteen days previous airing of the goods; with "Patente brute," thirty days quarantine, and fourteen days previous airing of the goods on board.

VI. Ships with "Patente nette," goods "susceptibles," from the ports of Tripoli and Algiers, must be twenty-eight days in quarantine; with "Patente touchée," from the same port, cargo the same, thirty days; with "Patente soupçonnée," cargo the same, coming from the same port, thirty-five days, and fourteen days airing of the goods on board; with "Patente brute," lading the same, from the same port, forty days, and three weeks airing of the goods on board.

VII. Ships with "Patente nette," goods "non susceptibles," coming from the same port, hold quarantine twenty-five days; with "Patente touchée," thirty days; with "Patente soupçonnée," thirty-five days, and ten days airing of the goods; with "Patente brute," forty days quarantine, and fourteen days airing of the goods on board.

VIII. All vessels coming from Constantinople, the Channel, Smyrna, and the ports of the Black Sea, are, without regard to their "Patente," or lading, or any distinction whatever, considered as vessels with "Patente brute," goods "susceptible."

OBSERVATIONS.

The common quarantine regulations are to be observed only when nothing has happened before or during the voyage; should a ship, for example, sail fourteen days after the ceasing of the plague, it is condemned to the most rigid quarantine; should it have ceased from sixty to seventy days previous to the sailing, the quarantine is less strict; has it ceased from seventy to eighty days, it is observed as in "Patente touchée," and only after the eightieth day, observed as "Patente nette."

Should the ship have been boarded by a corsair, the question then recurs, From what port was he dispatched? and should the plague have raged there, the ship must observe quarantine as

with " Patente touchée;" but should the plague have raged in that port at the time the corsair left it, the quarantine must be performed as with " Patente brute." If, however, the vessel have been forty days at sea since the boarding, without any one becoming sick, or dying, the customary quarantine is only prolonged ten days.—I now proceed to speak of the manner of performing quarantine.

QUARANTINE.

By quarantine we understand all things relating to cleansing and purifying a vessel: these vessels may be either suspected of infection, or actually infected. In both these cases, however, the same regulations must be observed, excepting only some trifles. For the sake of order we shall speak separately of the quarantine of the ship itself, that of the crew, passengers, and goods.

QUARANTINE OF THE SHIP.

The ship, on its arrival off Pomegues, is obliged to remain in that part of the harbour where it first anchored. It is attended by two guard-boats, and several soldiers are sent on board to prevent all communication, and to see that no other vessel approaches within a hundred toises of the island; and that the whole ship is, every where, daily washed and cleansed.

QUARANTINE OF THE CREW, &c.

With the quarantine of the ship, that of the crew and passengers is also connected; the first receive their food from a considerable distance, reached to them with long poles: the crew of every ship is allowed by law to fish in the harbour, yet in such a manner as not to have the slightest communication with the shore. Every sailor is examined daily by the guard on board, and should the least symptom of fever be perceived, he is instantly removed to the lazaretto; as is the body of every person dying on board, that it may be carefully dissected.

Besides this, an account of the situation of every one on board, and of every occurrence, is daily transmitted to the board for consideration.

The passengers have their choice whether they will perform quarantine on board the ship, or in the lazaretto: should they prefer the former, it must be with the consent of the captain; should they wish the latter, they must live there at their own expence. Few wish to remain on board, unless led to it from avarice or

extreme poverty. In the latter case, the captain may be forced to keep them on board, without any remuneration.

Passengers repairing to the lazeretto cannot leave the vessel till all their luggage is strictly examined. They are conveyed in the ship's boat, which is towed by a quarantine-boat. On their arrival at the lazaretto, they are received in a thick cloud of smoak, prepared for fumigating them, and immediately attended by a guard, who conducts them to their room, and never leaves them during their stay: their cloaths, &c. are hung up in an arcade to air.—If there be animals in the ship, those with long hair are cleansed on board; short-haired ones are forced to swim to land. Birds are sprinkled with vinegar, and then regarded as purified.

QUARANTINE OF GOODS.

It must be here, in the first place observed, that both the quality of the goods, and the purport of the certificate, may make an essential difference in the manner of performing quarantine: the quality of the goods decides whether they must be conveyed to the lazaretto, or whether they may remain on board; the certificate decides whether they must be purified on board previous to being taken to the lazaretto.

Corn, shell-fruit, ore, bars of metal, ashes, soda, oil, minerals, salt meat, dried fruits, wine, spirits, horn, esparto, tallow, and tarred cordage, may remain on board.

Wool of all kinds, cotton raw and spun, flax, hemp, oakum, goat's-hair, silk, linen, stuffs, and shawls of all sorts, spunge, furs, raw and dried hides, morocco, books, parchment, Spanish-leather, pasteboard, feathers, strung beads and rosaries, hardware; all articles manufactured with cotton, silk, wool, hemp, flax; money, luggage of all sorts, fresh flowers, untarred cordage, spices, coffee, and tobacco in sacks, bags, and bales, wrought copper and copper-filings, cochineal, plants for dying, wax, elephant's teeth, potash, gall nuts, nitre and natrum, must be conveyed to the lazaretto.

The purifying of goods on board lasts from ten to twenty-one days, although sometimes subject to modifications from circumstances.

Goods from ships having "Patente nette," may be conveyed to the lazaretto in the ship's boat; but in all other cases the quarantine-boat must be used. It is a rule, from Michaelmas to Easter, that nothing can be conveyed to the shore before seven in the morning, or after three in the afternoon: and from Easter to Michaelmas, nothing can be conveyed before five in the morning, nor after five in the evening; and an exact calculation is made

that no more goods be admitted on land, than can conveniently be received into the lazaretto. This appears to be a very wise and important regulation, as it renders all private communication with the land impossible, and totally prevents smuggling.

We shall now proceed to say a few words on the construction and internal regulations of the lazaretto, or pest-house, itself.

THE LAZARETTO AND ITS INTERNAL REGULATIONS.

The lazaretto, or pest-house, is situated on an eminence about fifty toises north of the town. It consists of two grand divisions, each of which contains a number of apartments for passengers and goods; the one being for persons actually infected, the other for those only suspected of infection: and the whole, together with the halls, pumps, and grass-plats, are so arranged as to have distinct communications with each distinct ship.

The whole building is surrounded by a wall twenty-five feet high. On the land side it has only one entrance; and on the sea side, a great number. It was built in 1666, but has only been in its present improved state since 1757.

It is under the direction of a superintendent, who has, at his disposal a lieutenant and a certain number of soldiers. The person generally chosen to fill this office is a merchant well versed in the Levant trade; he must be unmarried, or a widower: his salary is very considerable, and he is prohibited from receiving any perquisite, either from captains or passengers; and he must never be absent from his post in the day-time without special leave, and at night, on no account whatever. The lieutenant, who must also have been at the Levant, is subject to the same restrictions as the superintendent, as he is in all cases regarded as his representative. The guard must make their report of every incident every day. The *concierges*, or door-keepers, are selected with the greatest caution, as the nature of their office requires the utmost vigilance and probity.

REGULATIONS FOR THE PASSENGERS.

The rooms allotted to the passengers contain as little furniture as possible; every fire-place has a double grate before it, and all bedsteads are of iron. The food is prepared for the passengers by a *traiteur*, and conveyed to them by the guards; and with other things they are supplied by a purveyor.

The passengers can have no intercourse with any one, but at a considerable distance: those whose friends are allowed to see

them, have the privilege of going to a grate which is surrounded by a moat, and reaches the top of the building.

Should any one discover the slightest symptom of fever, he is immediately isolated and attended by a physician, accompanied by the superintendent, who waits at the door; should he stand in need of a surgeon, one is procured, who, for a handsome recompence (made him by the sick person), must attend, and can leave the lazaretto only with his patient. If his disease be alarming, it is carefully kept secret; should he wish to make a will, he must dictate it to a notary, who is placed at the door, and writes it in presence of the superintendent: should he wish to confess, the priest attends him alone, but places himself in the opposite corner of the room, hears his confession, and gives him the absolution, without approaching him: extreme unction and the viaticum are never administered, and the priest is afterwards obliged to swear that he has not approached or touched the sick person.

Should the patient die, the corpse is drawn from the bed with long ropes, at the ends of which are iron hooks, and conveyed in the night to the place of interment adjoining the building, where it is thrown into the ground with every thing that has been used on the occasion. The room is perfumed, fumigated, and, if necessary, several times white-washed. The bed, and every thing which the room contained, is aired for thirty or forty days.

I shall conclude by just observing, that persons taken from ships actually having the plague on board, are immured in the proper pest-house; there they may be said to be already buried, since no person is allowed to enter their room. Food, medicine, &c. is given them in baskets, fixed to long poles; and the attending surgeon and physician are separated from them by an iron grate. Should the patient recover, he is not permitted to leave his room for twelve weeks: should he die, he is buried as before described; the grave is filled with unslaked lime, and not opened till the expiration of thirty or forty years. All the furniture of his room, and all his effects, are immediately bu ned; and the walls chipped off some inches deep; after which they are fumigated, and otherwise cleaned for fourteen days, and then white-washed afresh.—These are the admirable regulations of an institution, which, in times like the present, must be doubly interesting to physicians and statesmen: an institution which may certainly be classed among the most respectable in France, and which may be regarded as a trophy of European culture and philanthropy.

END OF FISCHER'S TRAVELS.